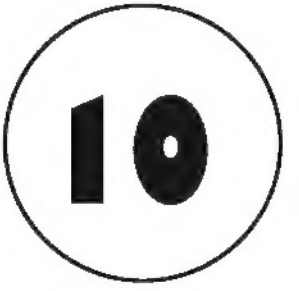
10
SUZUKA
KOUJI SEO

SUZUKA



Kouji Seo

TRANSLATED AND ADAPTED BY
David Ury

LETTERED BY
North Market Street Graphics

BALLANTINE BOOKS • NEW YORK

Suzuka 10

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

Suzuka volume 10 copyright © 2006 by Kouji Seo
English translation copyright © 2008 by Kouji Seo

All rights reserved.

First published in Japan in 2006 by Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo.
Electronic Publishing rights for this English edition arranged through Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo.

No portion of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means without written permission from the copyright holders.

English digital edition published by Kodansha Advanced Media, LLC, San Francisco.

www.kodanshacomics.com

ISBN: 9781682334225

Digital Edition: 1.0.0

Translator/adapter: David Ury
Lettering: North Market Street Graphics

Contents

A Note from the Author iv
Honorifics Explained v
Suzuka, Volume 10 1
Translation Notes 192
Preview of Volume 11 195

A Note from the Author

THANKS TO ALL YOU SUZUKA *FANS, THE SERIES FINALLY MADE IT TO DOUBLE DIGITS! LAST YEAR TURNED OUT TO BE A SUPER LUCKY YEAR FOR ME BECAUSE MY MANGA GOT MADE INTO AN ANIME. THIS YEAR I HOPE TO IMPROVE MY MANGA SKILLS EVEN MORE SO THAT THEY WILL MEASURE UP TO EVERYONE'S EXPECTATIONS. I STILL HAVE A LOT TO LEARN.*

Honorifics Explained

Throughout the Del Rey Manga books, you will find Japanese honorifics left intact in the translations. For those not familiar with how the Japanese use honorifics and, more important, how they differ from American honorifics, we present this brief overview.

Politeness has always been a critical facet of Japanese culture. Ever since the feudal era, when Japan was a highly stratified society, use of honorifics—which can be defined as polite speech that indicates relationship or status—has played an essential role in the Japanese language. When addressing someone in Japanese, an honorific usually takes the form of a suffix attached to one's name (example: "Asuna-san"), is used as a title at the end of one's name, or appears in place of the name itself (example: "Negi-sensei," or simply "Sensei!").

Honorifics can be expressions of respect or endearment. In the context of manga and anime, honorifics give insight into the nature of the relationship between characters. Many English translations leave out these important honorifics and therefore distort the feel of the original Japanese. Because Japanese honorifics contain nuances that English honorifics lack, it is our policy at Del Rey not to translate them. Here, instead, is a guide to some of the honorifics you may encounter in Del Rey Manga.

-san: This is the most common honorific and is equivalent to Mr., Miss, Ms., or Mrs. It is the all-purpose honorific and can be used in any situation where politeness is required.

-sama: This is one level higher than "-san" and is used to confer great respect.

-dono: This comes from the word "tono," which means "lord." It is an even higher level than "-sama" and confers utmost respect.

-kun: This suffix is used at the end of boys' names to express familiarity or endearment. It is also sometimes used by men among friends, or when addressing someone younger or of a lower station.

-chan: This is used to express endearment, mostly toward girls. It is also used for little boys, pets, and even among lovers. It gives a sense of childish cuteness.

Bozu: This is an informal way to refer to a boy, similar to the English terms "kid" and "squirt."

Sempai/ Senpai: This title suggests that the addressee is one's senior in a group or organization. It is most often used in a school setting, where underclassmen refer to their upperclassmen as "sempai." It can also be used in the workplace, such as when a newer employee addresses an employee who has seniority in the company.

Kohai: This is the opposite of "sempai" and is used toward underclassmen in school or newcomers in the workplace. It connotes that the addressee is of a lower station.

Sensei: Literally meaning "one who has come before," this title is used for teachers, doctors, or masters of any profession or art.

[blank]: This is usually forgotten in these lists, but it is perhaps the most significant difference between Japanese and English. The lack of honorific means that the speaker has permission to address the person in a very intimate way. Usually, only family, spouses, or very close friends have this kind of permission. Known as *yobisute*, it can be gratifying when someone who has earned the intimacy starts to call one by one's name without an honorific. But when that intimacy hasn't been earned, it can be very insulting.

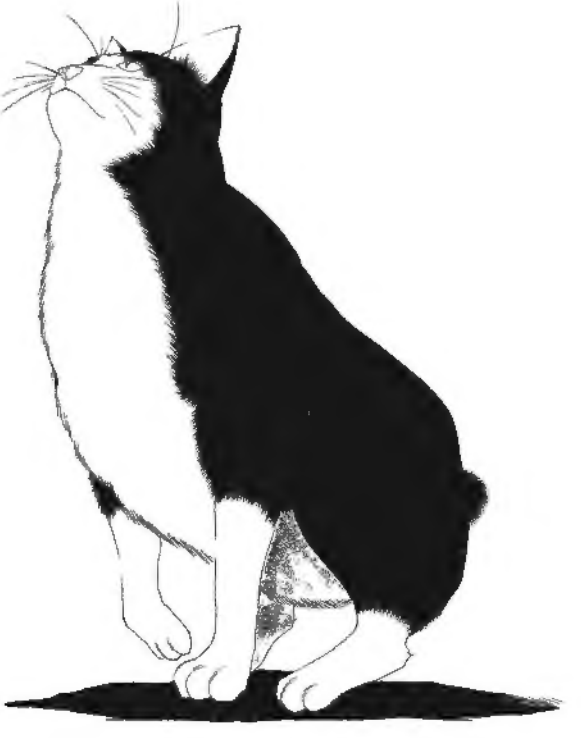
SUZUKA

10

Kouji Seo

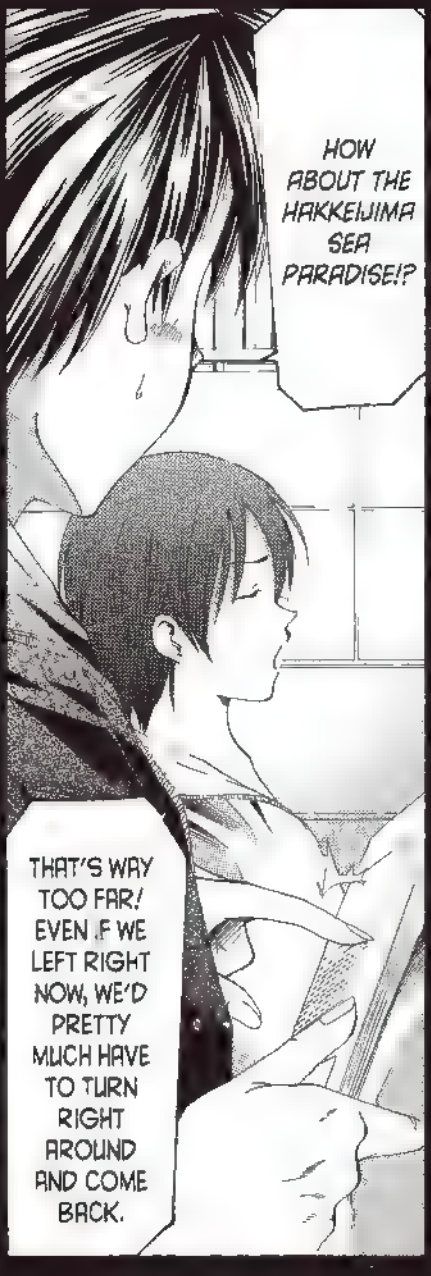
CONTENTS

#79 Night View.....3
#80 Nursing.....21
#81 Trust.....39
#82 Strength.....57
#83 Treasured.....75
#84 Plans.....93
#85 Yui.....111
#86 The Fight.....129
#87 The Reply.....147
Special Bonus:
Miho.....165
Hattori-Kun the Ninja.....185



LET'S SEE...
HEY...HAVE YOU DECIDED WHERE WE'RE GOING YET?

EVERYBODY GOES THERE ON THE WEEKEND. IT'LL BE PACKED.
WEL... THEN...WHAT ABOUT THE MINATOMIRA PORT AREA...?


HOW ABOUT THE HAKKEIJIMA SEA PARADISE!?
THAT'S WAY TOO FAR! EVEN IF WE LEFT RIGHT NOW, WE'D PRETTY MUCH HAVE TO TURN RIGHT AROUND AND COME BACK.

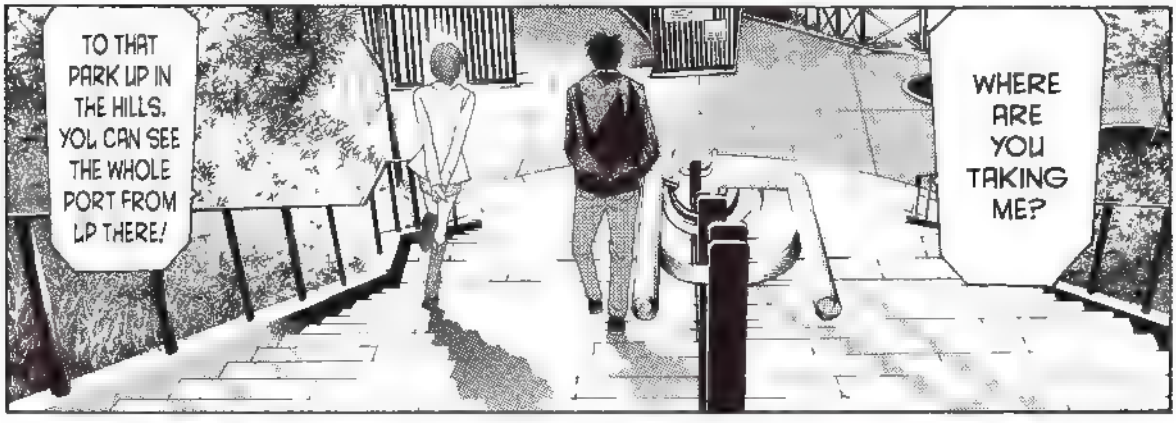
FLIP
AH... NO... NOT HERE...
WELL, LET'S SEE...
YokoHMA

TCH, YOU'RE HOPE-LESS.
.....

SUZUKA

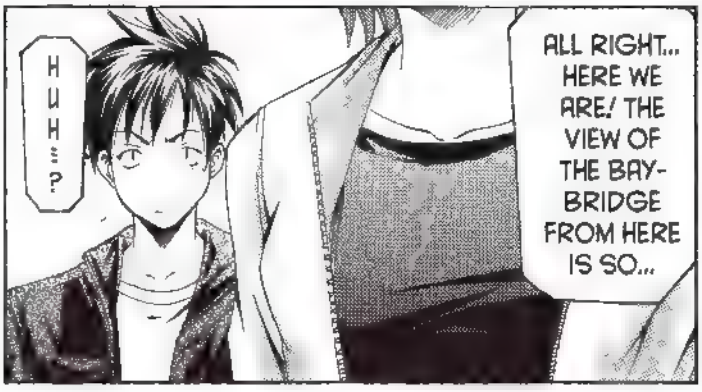
#79 Night View

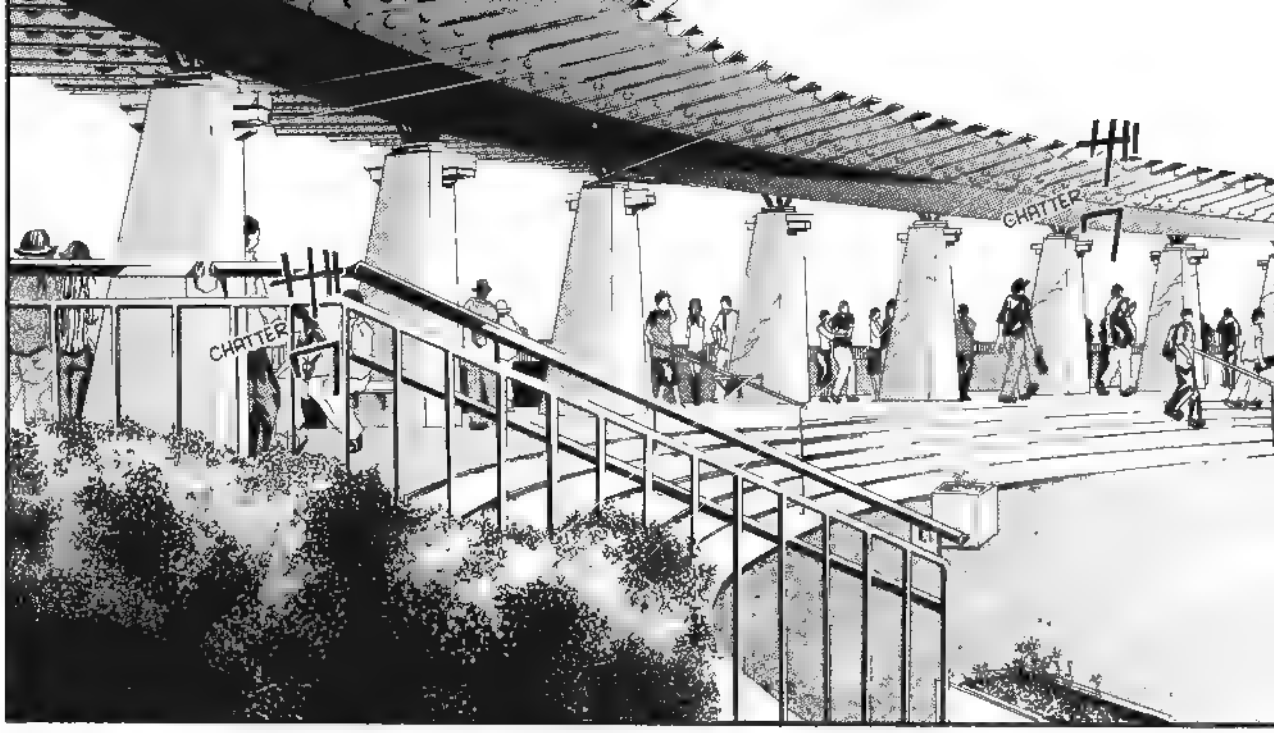
ROCHO


TO THAT PARK UP IN THE HILLS. YOU CAN SEE THE WHOLE PORT FROM UP THERE!
WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME?

I FEEL LIKE SUCH A TOURIST.
AS LONG AS YOU'RE HERE, YOU MAY AS WELL CHECK OUT SOME OF YOKOHAMA'S FAMOUS SPOTS.
BUT YOU'VE NEVER BEEN THERE BEFORE, HAVE YOU?

WHAT... I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU WERE SICK OF THAT PLACE...
I AM.


HUH?
ALL RIGHT... HERE WE ARE! THE VIEW OF THE BAY-BRIDGE FROM HERE IS SO...


CHATTER
CHATTER

HA HA HA, OH, I'D NEVER DO ANYTHING LIKE THAT....
I NEED TO GO TO THE BATH-ROOM.
WE'LL TAKE A ONE HOUR BREAK HERE! PLEASE DON'T WANDER OFF TOO FAR. THANK YOU.
SCREECH

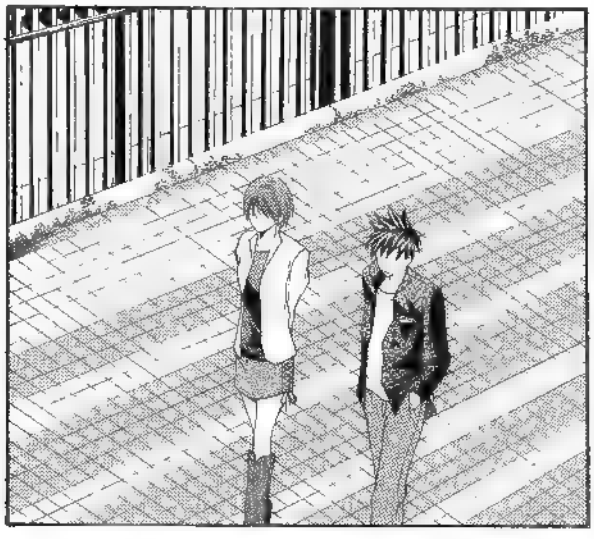
DA
DA
DA

WHOA.... THESE ARE REAL TOUR STS.
.....

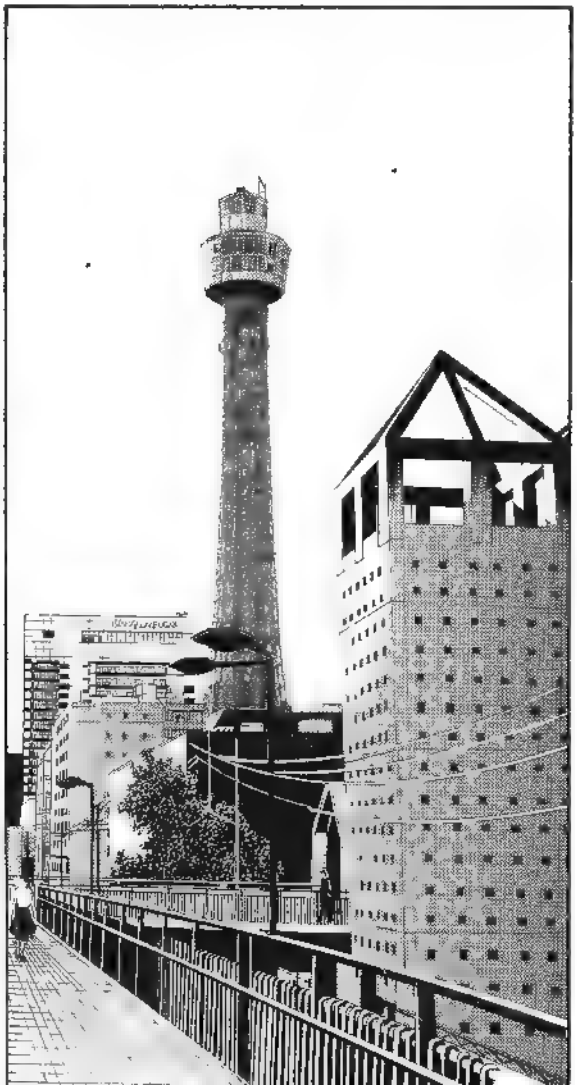
AHAAA!!
WOO WOO WOO!!
DA
DA
DA

SO MUCH FOR OUR PEACEFUL DAY AT THE PARK.
.....
WOOOOOO!!

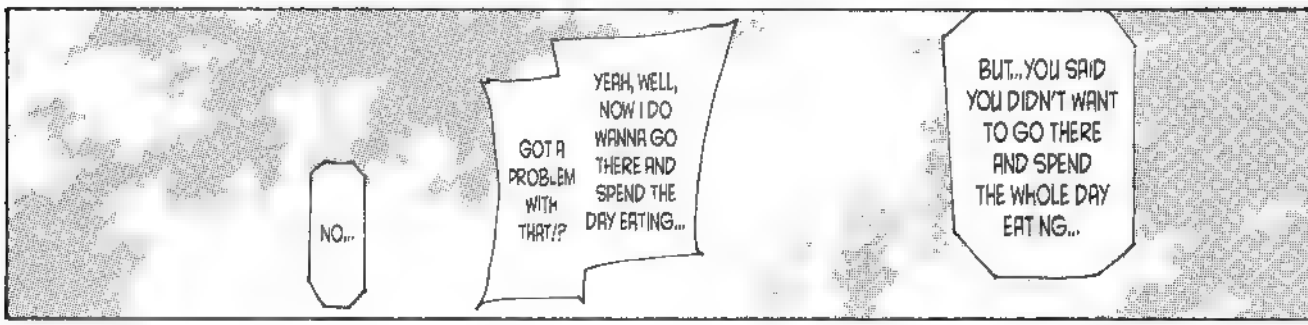
NO VISIT TO YOKOHAMA WOULD BE COMPLETE WITHOUT A TRIP TO THE TOP OF THE TOWER!!
HEY, I KNOW!! LET'S GO TO THE MARINE TOWER!!



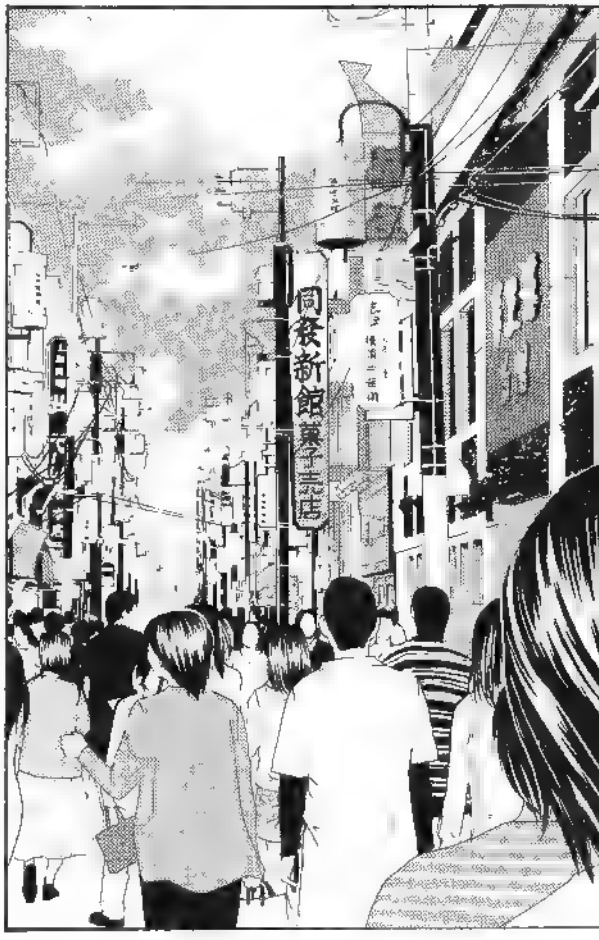
.....
-I CAN'T BELIEVE T WAS UNDER CONSTRUC-TION. WHAT CRAPPY LUCK.



THAT'S WHAT YOKOHAMA'S FAMOUS FOR, RIGHT!
CHINATOWN!!


BUT...YOU SAID YOU DIDN'T WANT TO GO THERE AND SPEND THE WHOLE DAY EAT NG...
YEAH, WELL, NOW I DO WANNA GO THERE AND SPEND THE DAY EATING...
GOT A PROBLEM WITH THAT!?
NO...

UH... SO WHERE'S THIS "HOLE IN THE WALL" YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT....THE ONE WHERE THE LOCALS GO?
SH-SHUT UP. IT'S AROUND HERE SOME-WHERE.


同發新館菓子売店

I THINK WE'VE BEEN GOING IN CIRCLES. ARE YOU REALLY FROM HERE?
IT'S HARD TO FIND, OKAY! THAT'S WHY THEY CALL IT "A HOLE IN THE WALL." NOW SHUT YOUR MOUTH!

OKAY, OKAY...
WHO DOES SHE THINK SHE IS, CHOSHU RIKI?
YOU DON'T HAVE TO GET ALL PISSED.
I'M NOT!!
WHEN I'M PISSED, YOU'LL KNOW IT!
WHAT!!
AH...HERE IT IS!! ON THE CORNER!!
.....
ISN'T THIS THAT HOLE IN THE WALL THEY SHOWED ON TV?
THE FOOD'S SUP-POSED TO BE GREAT.
FWAAAA
ズラ
中国料理
彩福

THAT'S ENOUGH!
I'M GOING HOME!!
YUM! THIS PORK BUN IS SO GOOD!! EATING WHILE YOU WALK AROUND IS THE WAY TO DO IT.
WHO NEEDS RESTAU-RANTS!!
CLOP
CLOP
ASAHINA...
WHERE...?
WHY DON'T WE TRY GOING BACK OVER THERE...?
IT SHOULDN'T BE TOO CROWDED NOW!
THE PARK.

IT'S ALL RIGHT. YOU DON'T HAVE TO TRY TO BE SO NICE
COME ON, LET'S JUST GO CHECK IT OUT!!
OKAY!?
.....
HMMPH.
THERE'S SUPPOSED TO BE SOME KIND OF EVENT GOING ON TONIGHT. MAYBE EVERYBODY WENT THERE.
TOLD YOU NOBODY WOULD BE HERE!
SO WE GET THE WHOLE PLACE TO OUR-SELVES

WOW!!
WHAT A VIEW!!

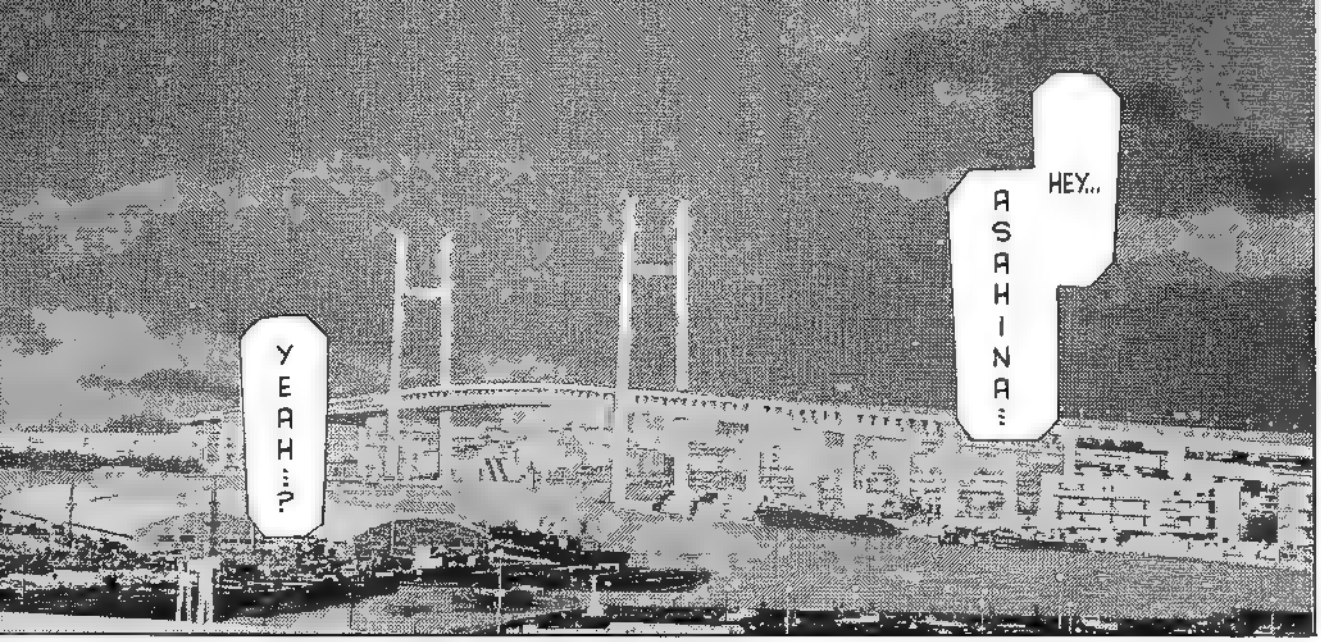
YAWN...
THIS IS WAY COOLER THAN I EXPECTED.
YOKOHAMA IS AWESOME.
ISN'T IT?
YOKOHAMA LOOKS REALLY PRETTY AT NIGHT.
YEAH, IT DOES.
...BUT IT'S A LITTLE WINDY.
THAT DOESN'T BOTHER ME.

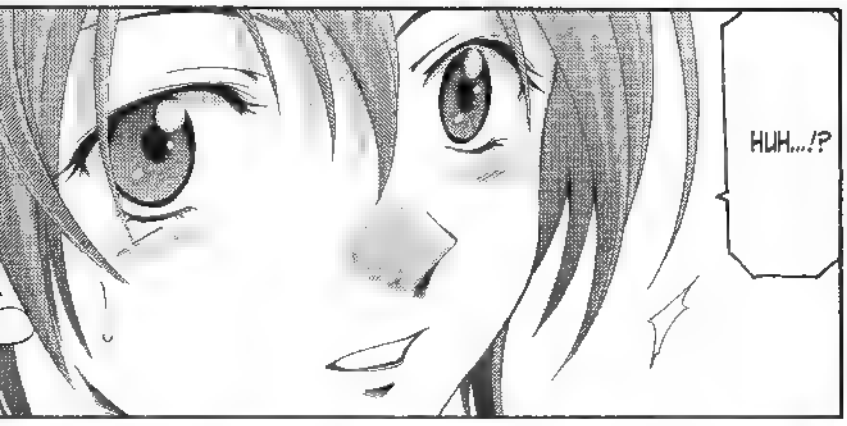
REALLY?
WELL, IT WAS KIND OF A PAIN AT FIRST, BUT I'M GLAD I CAME...
...TO YOKOHAMA.

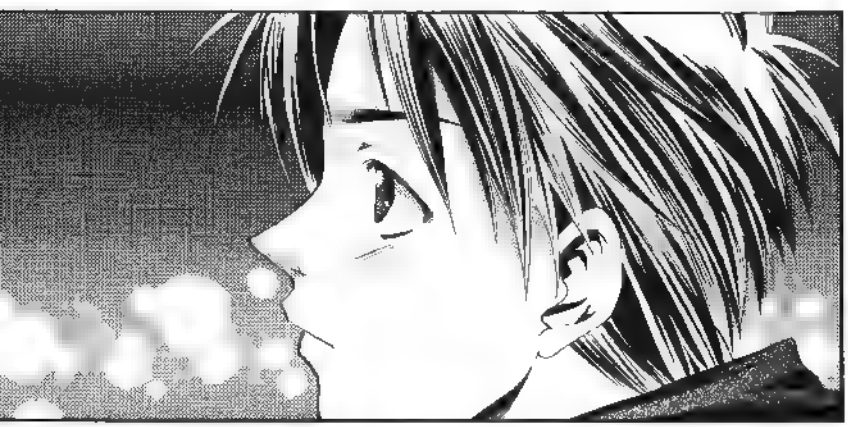
I FEEL LIKE WE'RE REALLY A COUPLE NOW.
SURE...

#11

UH...?
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?


HEY...
ASAHINA...
YEAH...?


HUH...!?



YEAH...
.....

I...
I KIND OF... FORCED YOU TO KISS ME THAT ONE TIME...

ARE YOU...
...MAD AT ME?
.....
WHY ARE YOU ASKING ME THIS NOW?
BECAUSE YOU NEVER TALK ABOUT IT.
I THOUGHT MAYBE YOU DIDN'T WANT ME TO KISS YOU.
SO, I FIGURED I'D BETTER APOLOGIZE... IT'S BEEN BUGGING ME EVER SINCE IT HAPPENED.
YOU DIOT...
WHAT...?
I WAS JUST TOO EMBAR-RASSED...
...TO TALK ABOUT IT, THAT'S ALL.

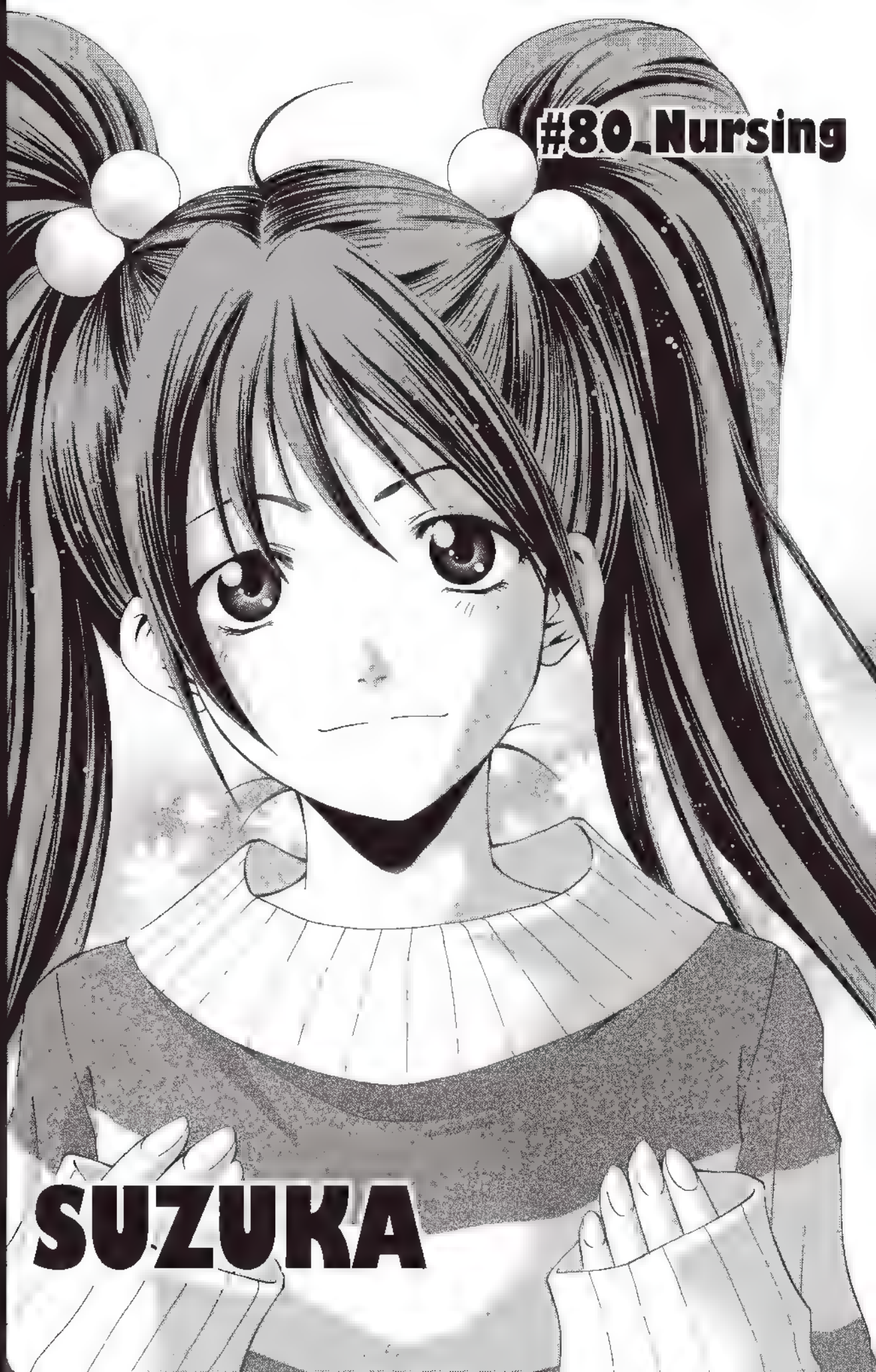
.....
O-Oh. SORRY FOR ASKING SUCH A WEIRD QUESTION.
JUST FOR-GET IT!
WHAT!!
YOU REALLY ARE AN IDIOT...
WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?
IF I DIDN'T LIKE IT.... WHY WOULD I EVEN GO OUT WITH YOU IN THE FIRST PLACE?

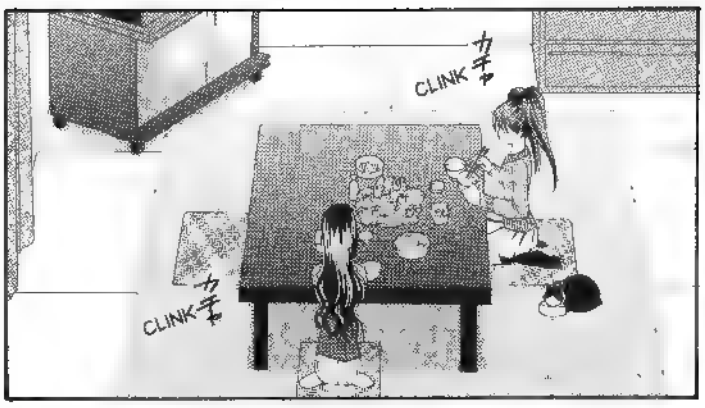
OH...
OKAY...

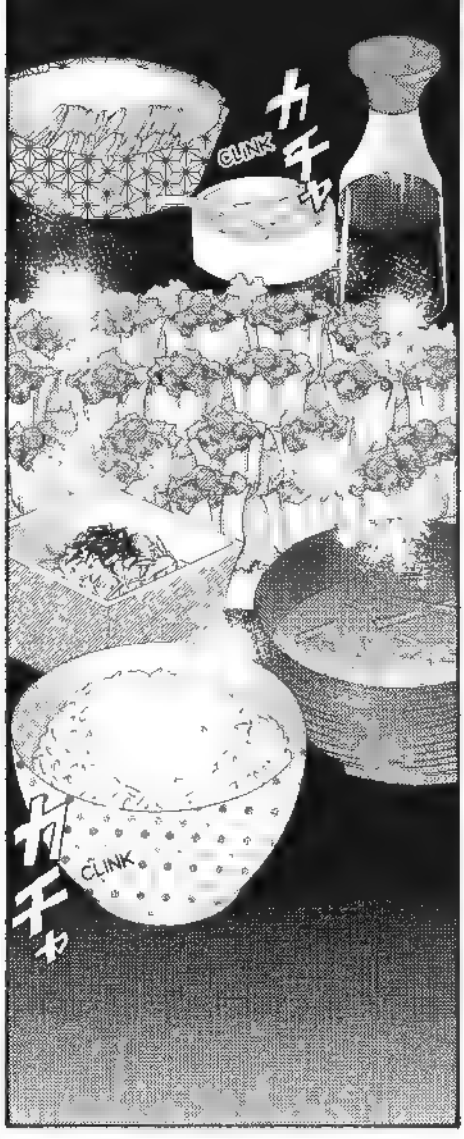
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
FWAHHH
STOP... THAT COUPLE OVER THERE IS LOOKING AT US.
SHOCK
!?
WHATEVER. THEY PROBABLY CAME HERE TO MAKE OUT, TOO.
BUT..
SORRY ABOUT THAT, DUDE. JUST GO BACK TO WHAT YOU WERE DOING.
.....

H-HOW GROSS! I CAN'T BELIEVE THEY'RE MAKING OUT IN PUBLIC.
Y-YEAH!!
SH-SHOULD WE HEAD BACK?
HUH?
YEAH!!
.....
.....
HOW CAN THEY DO THAT?
I KNOW...

LOOKS LIKE THINGS ARE GOING PRETTY WELL FOR THOSE TWO.
WHAT? WHO ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
SUZUKA
YAMATO AND SUZUKA-CHAN. THEY WENT TO YOKOHAMA ON A DATE TODAY.
WHAA.... REALLY?
A DATE IN YOKOHAMA... IT'S SUCH A CLICHÉ.
I THINK IT'S NICE. THERE'RE LOTS OF COOL PLACES TO SEE.
YOU KNOW... WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED IF YAMATO GOT CARRIED AWAY AND ENDED UP DOING SOMETH NG NAUGHTY....WHO KNOWS, MAYBE THEY'RE DOING IT RIGHT NOW.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "SOME-THING NAUGHTY"?
DON'T TRY AND ACT ALL INNOCENT, YOU KNOW EXACTLY WHAT I MEAN.


#80_Nursing
SUZUKA


CLINK カチャ
CLINK カチャ

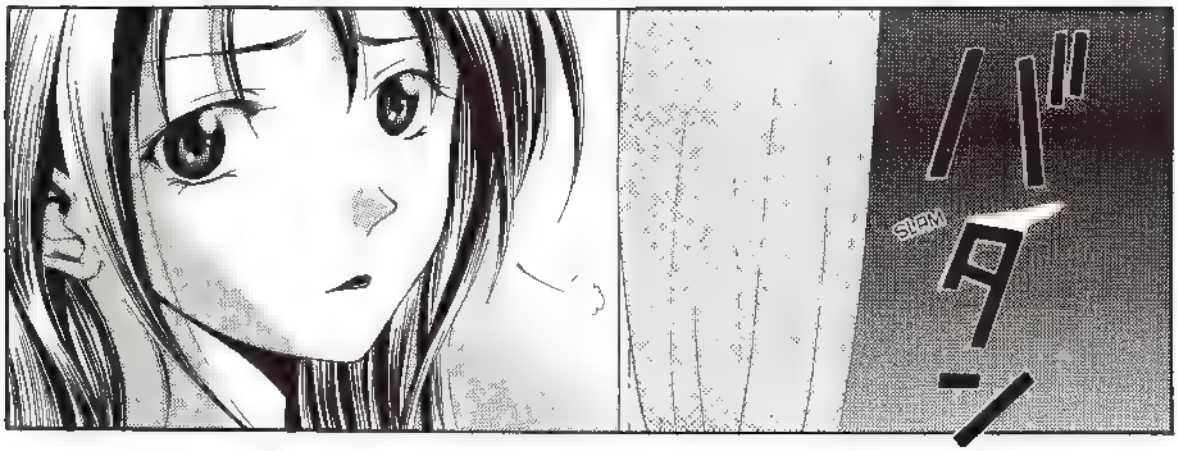

CLINK カチャ
CLINK カチャ

IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I HAD DINNER WITH JUST YOU, MIHO.
IT'S SO QUIET WITHOUT YAMATO-KUN AND EVERYONE.

SLUMP ムズ

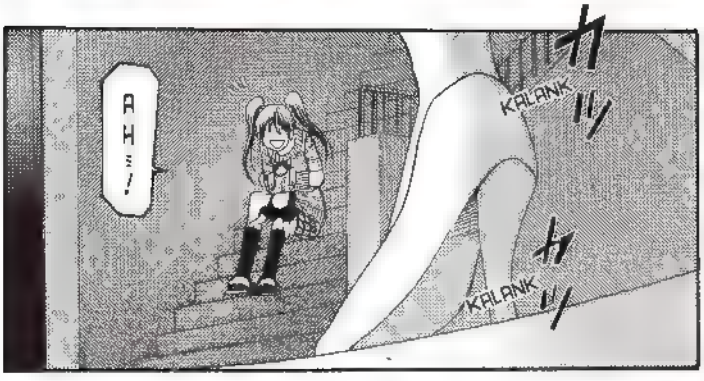
HEY, MOM. WHEN ARE THEY COMING BACK?
UH... I DON'T KNOW. I TOLD THEM NOT TO BE TOO LATE.

IT'S ALREADY LATE!!
FWOOSH
AREN'T YOU WORRIED ABOUT THEM!?
IT'S OKAY. YAMATO'S NOT A LITTLE KID ANYMORE.
BESIDES, SUZUKA-CHAN IS WITH HIM.
B-BUT...!
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
SAOTOME-SAN WAS SAYING SOME-THING WEIRD ABOUT THEM....
NEVER MIND!! LET'S GO, GORO-CHAN!!
MEOWW
SCRITCH
SCRITCH
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
AH... WHERE ARE YOU GOING, MIHO?
CLOP
THANKS FOR DINNER.
CLOPPA


SLAM

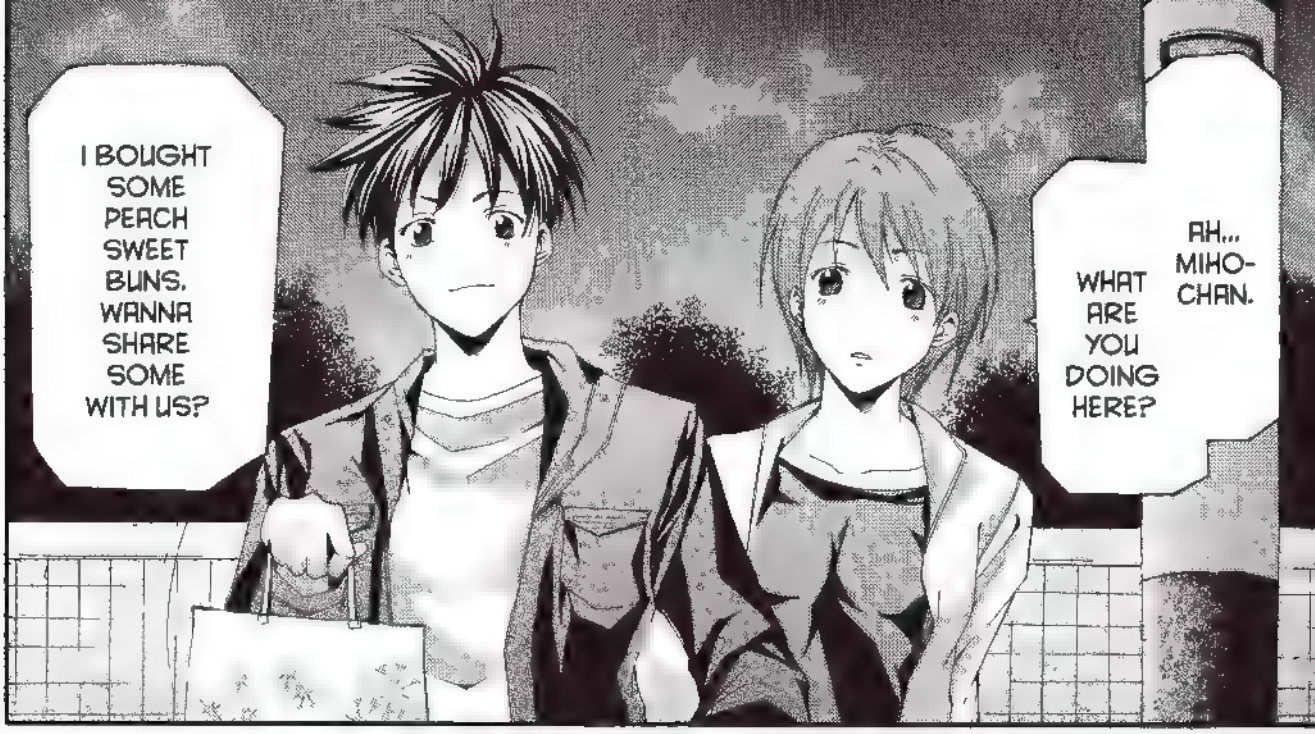
TSSSWAAA

TCH... WHAT THE HECK COULD THEY BE DOING...
MEOWW


KALANK
KALANK
AH=!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
.....
KALANK
KALANK
JUST LEAVE ME ALONE..
THAT'S SO SWEET! YOU'RE LIKE A LITTLE PUPPY WAITING FOR A MASTER WHO ISN'T EVER COMING HOME.
YOU SHOULDN'T BE OUT HERE RIGHT AFTER YOUR BATH, YA KNOW. YOU'LL CATCH COLD.
I DON'T THINK SO. I BET RIGHT ABOUT NOW THEY'RE CHECKING INTO A FANCY YOKOHAMA HOTEL...
H-HE IS TOO COMING HOME.
ALL RIGHT, ALL R GHT.
SHUT UP!! JUST GO AWAY, YOU PERVERT!!

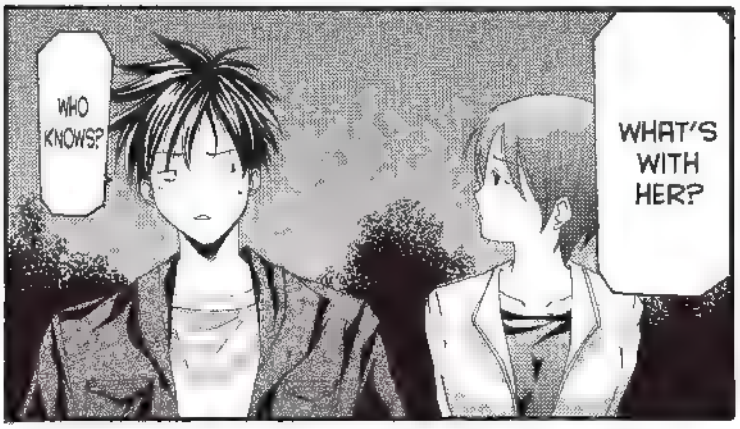
...THAT I MIND THAT YAMATO-KUN AND SUZUKA-CHAN ARE TOGETHER, IT'S JUST THAT...
IT'S NOT...
YEAH! LET'S GO!!
LET'S GO CHECK OUT THAT SHRINE, MIHO-CHAN!!
I'M NOT SCARED! I KNOW YOU'LL FIGHT OFF ALL THE GHOSTS!
BUT WE'D BETTER BE CAREFUL. THEY SAY IT'S HAUNTED
HE USED TO SPEND A LOT MORE TIME WITH ME BACK THEN...


I BOUGHT SOME PEACH SWEET BUNS. WANNA SHARE SOME WITH US?
AH... MIHO-CHAN. WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

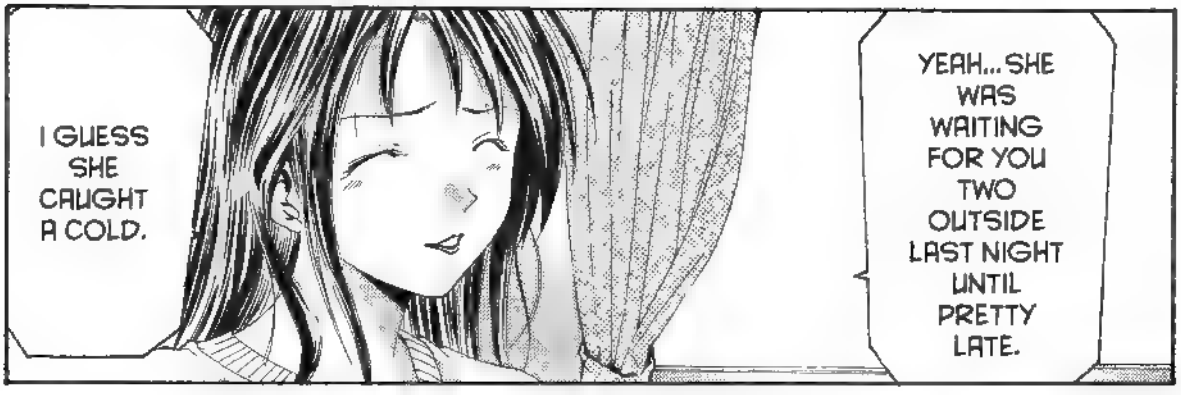
.....

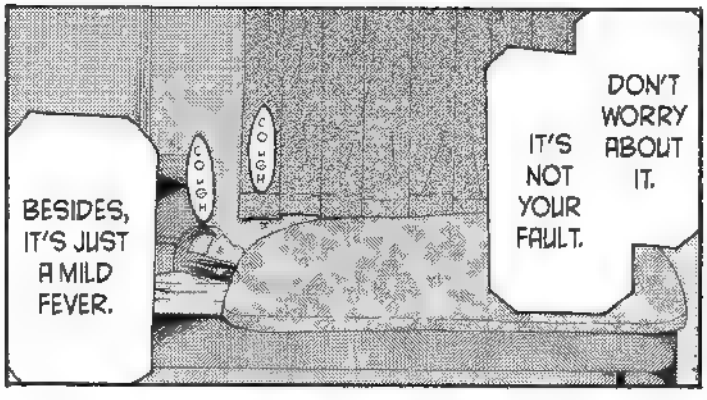
SLAM

AH... MIHO-CHAN!
NO WAY!
FWOOSH

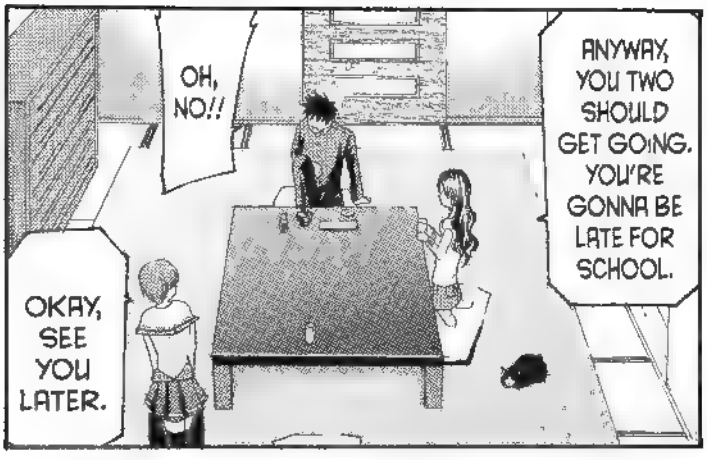

WHO KNOWS?
WHAT'S WITH HER?

SHE'S SICK?


I GUESS SHE CAUGHT A COLD.
YEAH... SHE WAS WAITING FOR YOU TWO OUTSIDE LAST NIGHT UNTIL PRETTY LATE.


BESIDES, IT'S JUST A MILD FEVER.
COUGH
COUGH
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

I-I FEEL REALLY BAD.
YEAH.

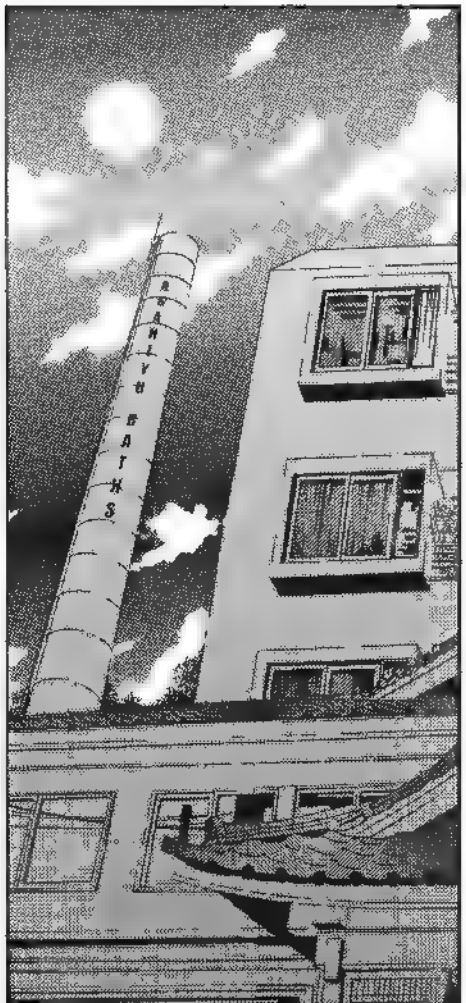

OH, NO!!
ANYWAY, YOU TWO SHOULD GET GOING. YOU'RE GONNA BE LATE FOR SCHOOL.
OKAY, SEE YOU LATER.

COUGH
COUGH
HMMPH...
WHAT ARE YOU SO HAPPY ABOUT...
WHEN I GROW UP, WE'RE GONNA GET MARRIED!!
WHAT!?

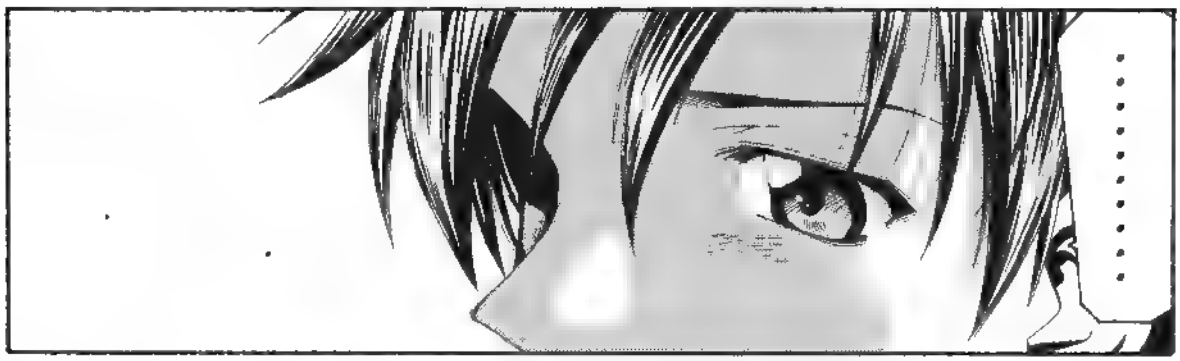
A-ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT... I PROMISE!!
CAN WE? CAN WE? PROMISE ME!

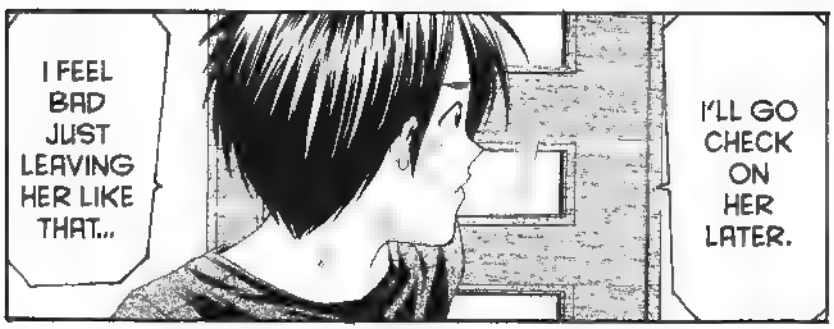
LIAR...
.....

IS SHE OKAY?
OH...IS MIHO-CHAN STILL SLEEPING?
YEAH, HER FEVER HAS COME DOWN A LOT.


FAMILY BATHS

BUT SHE SAYS SHE DOESN'T WANT TO GET OUT OF BED.
PLUNK
I WONDER IF SHE'S OKAY...
SHE'LL GET UP ONCE SHE GETS HUNGRY.


.....


I'LL GO CHECK ON HER LATER.
I FEEL BAD JUST LEAVING HER LIKE THAT...

I'M WORRIED ABOUT HER...
HUH?

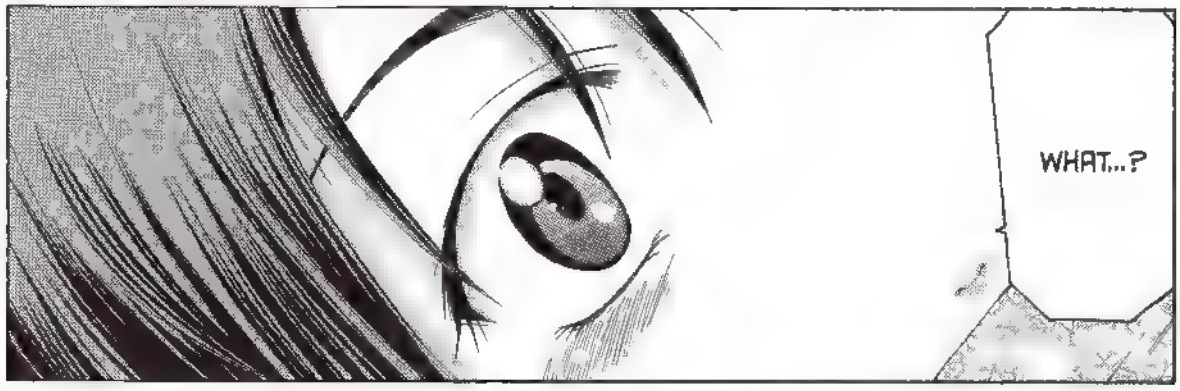
HE'S NOT EVEN WORRIED ENOUGH TO COME SEE ME.
STUPID YAMATO-KUN
MIHO-CHAN
YOU MUST BE HUNGRY HUH?
I ASKED AYANO-SAN TO FIX YOU SOME RICE PORRIDGE
W-WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE!?
A-ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? YOU STILL LOOK KINDA SICK
I DON'T WANT ANY
THAT'S NO GOOD YOU'VE GOTTA EAT SOMETHING YOU CAN'T TAKE MEDICINE ON AN EMPTY STOMACH

ALL RIGHT, WHAT DO YOU WANT, THEN?
I DON'T WAN' ANY
MY PARENT'S JUST SENT ME SOME FROM BACK HOME.
AH, HOW ABOUT SOME APPLES?
I COULD MAKE THAT WITH JUST A REGULAR FRYING PAN.
HOW ABOU' KANSA STYLE OKONOMI YAK I?
I DON'T WANT KANSAI-STYLE!!
WHAT!? I CAN'T I DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT KIND OF SKILLET.
WAN' YOU TO MAKE ME SOME H- ROSHIMA STYLE OKONOMI-YAK

OKAY WHATEVER I DON'T KNOW WHY I EVEN BOTHERED
I'M SO HUNGRY I AIN'T EVEN MAD
AH SOMETHING SMELLS GOOD

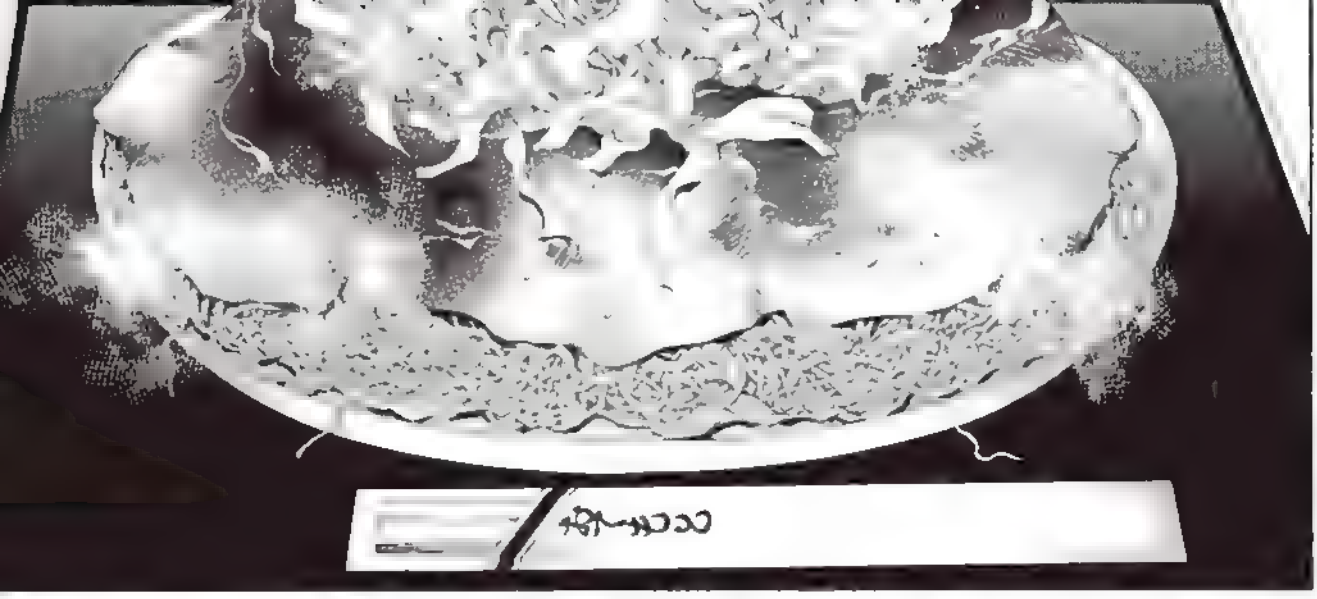
I BROUGHT YOU SOME HIROSHIMA-STYLE OKO-NOMIYAKI.

カリラ
SL DE
HEY!


WHAT...?

I CAN'T GUARANTEE THAT IT'S ACTUALLY EDIBLE THOUGH. I'VE NEVER EVEN MADE HIROSHIMA-STYLE BEFORE.
カヲ
PLINK
.....

Y-YOU MADE IT FOR ME!?
FWLP
ANYTHING FOR THE PRINCESS.



WH-WHAT DO YOU EXPECT? I HAD TO USE A REGULAR FRYING PAN.
YOU REALLY EXPECT ME TO EAT THIS?
IT LOOKS PRETTY SLOPPY.

WHAT!? YOU WANT ME TO FEED IT TO YOU?
OKAY, I'M READY FOR A BITE. AHHHHH!
OH WELL, I MIGHT AS WELL TASTE IT.

GEEZ...
CAN'T YOU DO ANYTHING RIGHT, YAMATO-KUN...

IT WAS NICE OF HIM TO DO THAT, BUT...
SIGH...
HE SURE LEFT A LOT OF DISHES FOR ME.
WELL...
I GUESS I'LL FORGIVE HIM... SINCE HE'S TAKING SUCH GOOD CARE OF MIHO-CHAN.

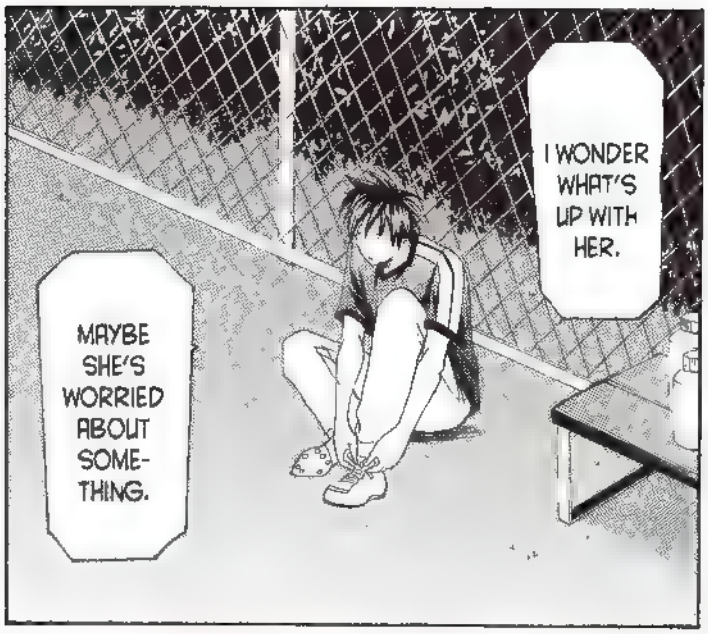
#81 Trust
SUZUKA

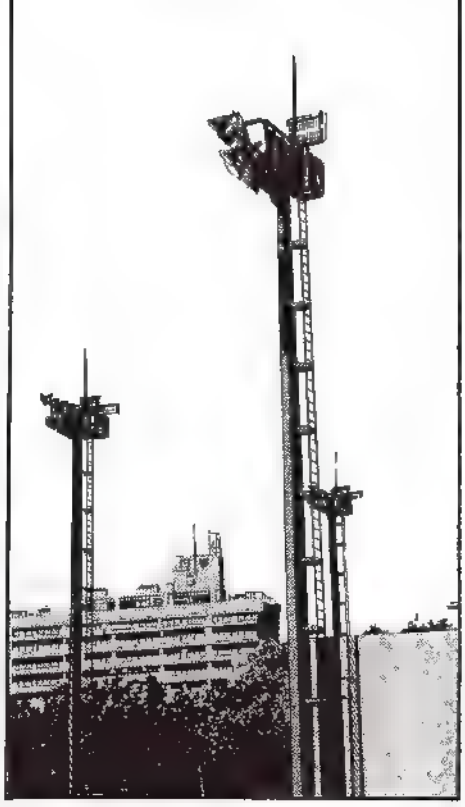
Re Best

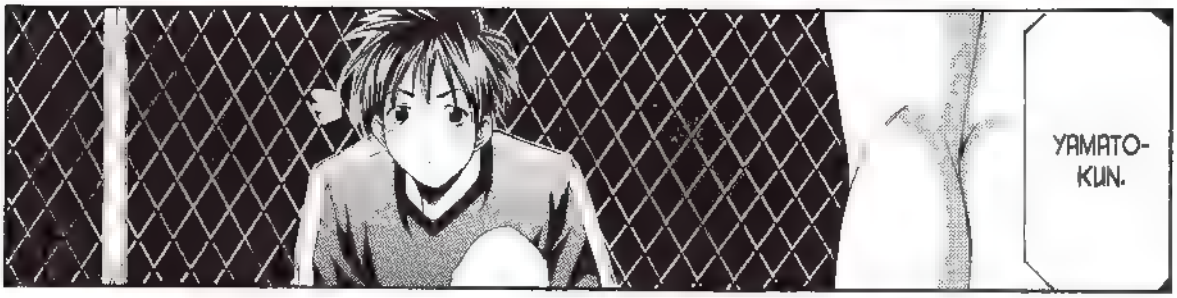
DAMN... LATELY IT'S SO FREAKIN' COLD IN THE MORNING.
YEAH... I KNOW.

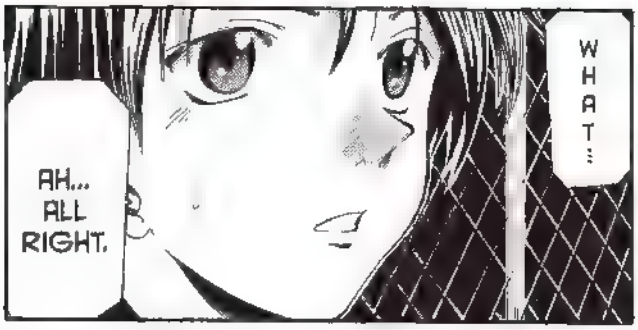
HEY, DO YOU WANNA GO GET SOME OKO-NOMIYAKI AFTER PRACTICE?
A COLD DAY LIKE THIS CALLS FOR A NICE HOT MEAL.

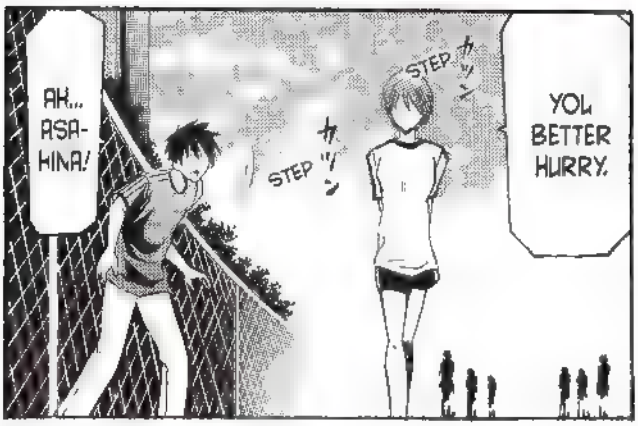
WHAT'S THE MATTER? YOU'VE BEEN ALL SPACED OUT SINCE YESTERDAY.
I'M SORRY... WHAT?
HEY... ARE YOU LISTEN-ING?
WHAT!?
I SAID DO YOU WANNA GO GET SOME OKONOMI-YAKI AFTER SCHOOL?
TODAY...?
SORRY, I CAN'T.
THERE'S SOME-THING I HAVE TO DO AFTER PRACTICE.
.....
OH, OKAY.
TSSSS
YEAH... SORRY.


I WONDER WHAT'S UP WITH HER.
MAYBE SHE'S WORRIED ABOUT SOME-THING.




YAMATO-KUN.


WHAT!!
AH... ALL RIGHT.


AH... ASA-KINA!
STEP カツン
STEP カツン
YOU BETTER HURRY.

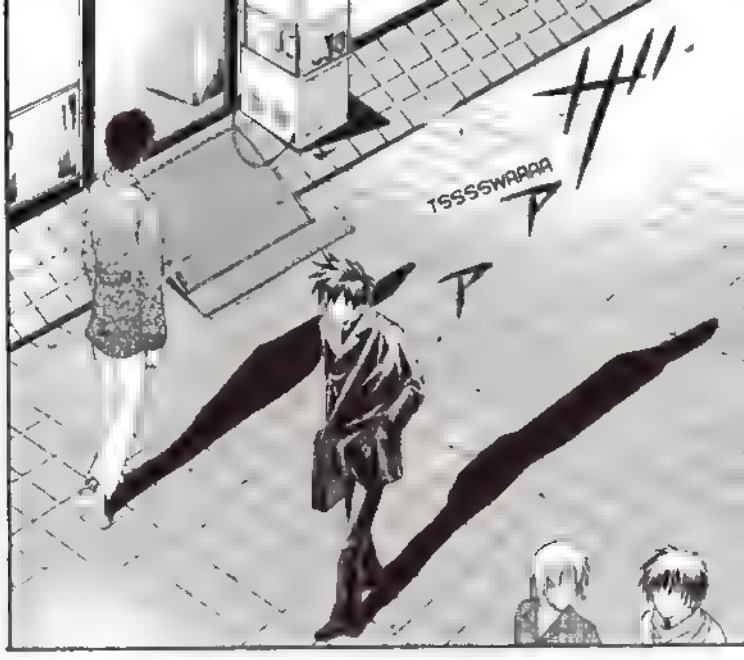
KINUGASA-SENPAI WANTS YOU.
HE SAID TO COME OVER IN THIRTY SEC-ONDS.

YOU WERE ACTING K NDA WEIRD THIS MORN- ING... ARE YOU WOR- RIED ABOUT SOMETHING?
W H A T ?
THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE UNDER A LOT OF PRES- SURE AGAIN BECAUSE OF THIS TRACK STUFF.
W H A T ?
I WISH SHE WOULD JUST TALK TO ME.
SURE DOESN'T SEEM L.KE "NOTH NG."
AH...
STEP
STEP
AH... WAIT!
IT'S NOTH- ING.

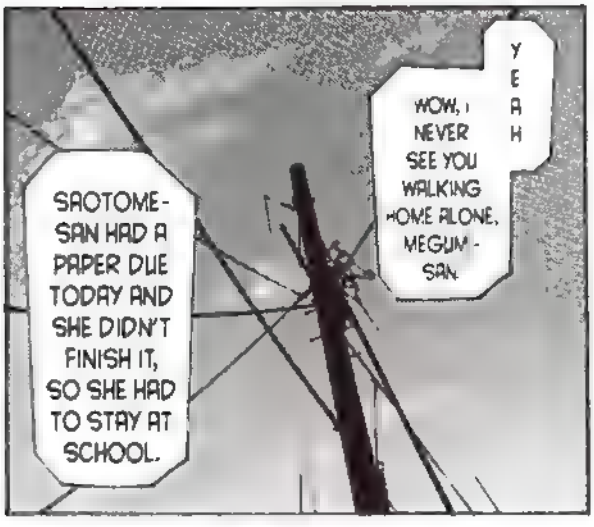
HEY, HASHIBA.
STEP カツン
STEP カツン
.....
.....?
HASHIBA!
HUH... WHY ARE YOU MAD AT ME?
I'M NOT MAD! BUT DON'T CALL MY NAME UNLESS YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING TO SAY!
UM... I WAS JUST WONDERING IF ASAHINA SAID ANYTHING TO YOU.
WHAT!?
GOD! ARE YOU STILL CALLING HER ASAHINA?
WHAT!?
WHAT!?
UH-HUH...
SO, I'VE JUST BEEN STICKING WITH ASAHINA.
AH... YEAH... IT JUST DOESN'T SOUND RIGHT WHEN CALL HER BY HER FIRST NAME.

OH...ASAHINA SEEMS LIKE SHE'S WORRIED ABOUT SOMETHING AND I THOUGHT SHE MIGHT HAVE SAID SOMETHING TO YOU.
UH...? WHAT WERE WE TALKING ABOUT.
UH-HUH... RIGHT... OKAY THEN....
HUH"?
AH... YOU THINK SO...?
OH, DON'T WORRY. WE ALL HAVE DAYS LIKE THAT. I'M SURE IT'S NOTHING.
.....?
CLOP
CLOP
AAAAHHH!! I'M SORRY!!
WHAT THE HELL? I TOLD YOU TO COME OVER IN THIRTY SECONDS!!
THWUMP

IT'S KIND OF LONE-SOME WALKING BACK HOME ALONE...
ESPE-CIALLY WHEN IT'S SO COLD.
DRIP


TSSSSWAAAA

HUH...?


SAOTOME-SAN HAD A PAPER DUE TODAY AND SHE DIDN'T FINISH IT, SO SHE HAD TO STAY AT SCHOOL.
WOW, I NEVER SEE YOU WALKING HOME ALONE, MEGUMI-SAN.
YEAH

BLDG
UH-HUH...
AND WE HAD TO CANCEL THE DAT-ING PARTY WE HAD PLANNED.

AH... YAMATO-KUN.
ARE YOU ON YOUR WAY HOME?

IZAKAYA 'KENBISHI'

I JUST DON'T WANT TO BE ALONE ANYMORE.
YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN?
I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT... AUTUMN FEELS LIKE SUCH A LONELY SEASON.

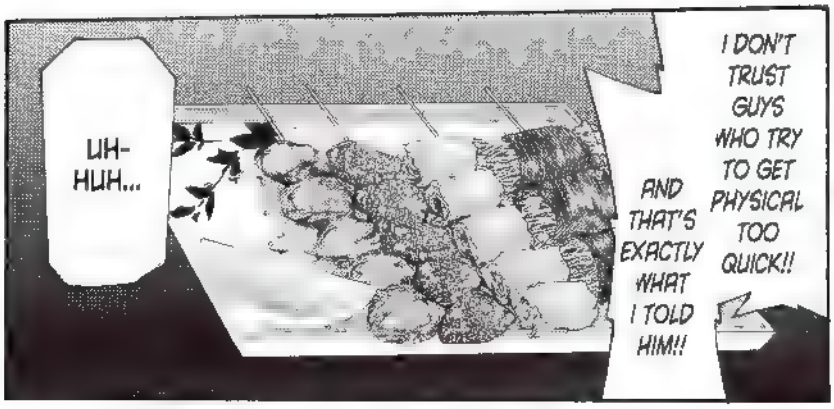
WHY DON'T YOU GO FIND A BOY-FRIEND THEN?
.....

AH... HEY... SLOW DOWN...
GULP
.....

SORRY FOR DRAG-GING YOU HERE.
YOU'RE UNDER-AGE, SO NO BOOZE FOR YOU.
YEAH...I KNOW...
MAYBE YOU SHOULD CUT BACK A LITTLE, TOO, MEGUMI-SAN.

THUNK

THAT'S WHY I HAVE TO GO TO THESE STUPID DATING PARTIES!
I HAD ONE! HE DUMPED ME!!


UH-HUH...
AND THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I TOLD HIM!!
I DON'T TRUST GUYS WHO TRY TO GET PHYSICAL TOO QUICK!!

AH... SORRY...
YOU SURE KNOW HOW TO DROWN YOUR SOR-ROWS...

WELL, THAT'S BECAUSE YOU TOLD HIM NOT TO, RIGHT?
CHOMP
CHOMP
WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THAT!?
AND NOW HE'S GONE MONTHS WITHOUT EVEN MAKING A MOVE.

COME TO THINK OF IT, YOU GUYS HAVE BEEN GOING OUT FOR A LITTLE OVER A MONTH, RIGHT?
HAVE YOU KISSED HER YET?
OOOOUCHHH!!
STAB
OF COURSE I DID!!
BUT I NEVER TOLD HIM TO IGNORE ME FOR MONTHS AND GO OUT WITH OTHER GIRLS.
WE HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING LIKE THAT SINCE WE STARTED GOING OUT.
N-NOT YET...
DOES SUZUKA-CHAN EVER ASK YOU FOR ADVICE? I BET SHE DOESN'T.
YOU'RE NOT MUCH OF A MAN, YAMATO-KUN.
...WELL, SAY WHAT YOU WANT, BUT...
HOW PATHETIC. I MEAN, THAT'S NOT EVEN "INNO-CENT AND SWEET." IT'S JUST PLAIN SLOW!
CAN GET ANOTHER BEER, PLEASE!
UH...

SHE'S RIGHT. ASAHINA'S NEVER ASKED ME FOR ADVICE.
CLOPPA
CLOPPA
GUESS...

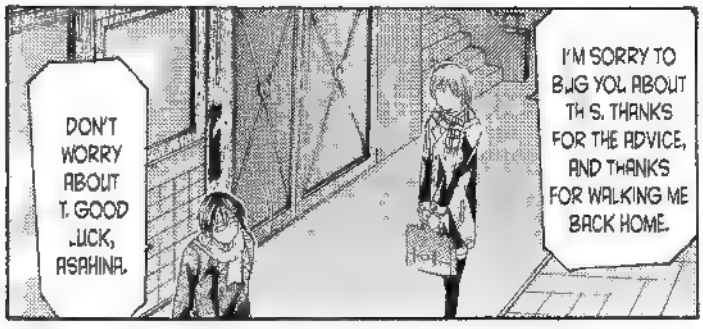
OF COURSE, IT'S BETTER THAT WAY.

YOU'RE NOT MUCH OF A MAN, YAMATO-KUN.
.....

ASA-HINA AND
MIYA-MOTO SENPAI?

YOU'RE RIGHT.
OKAY. I'LL DO THAT.

WHAT...?

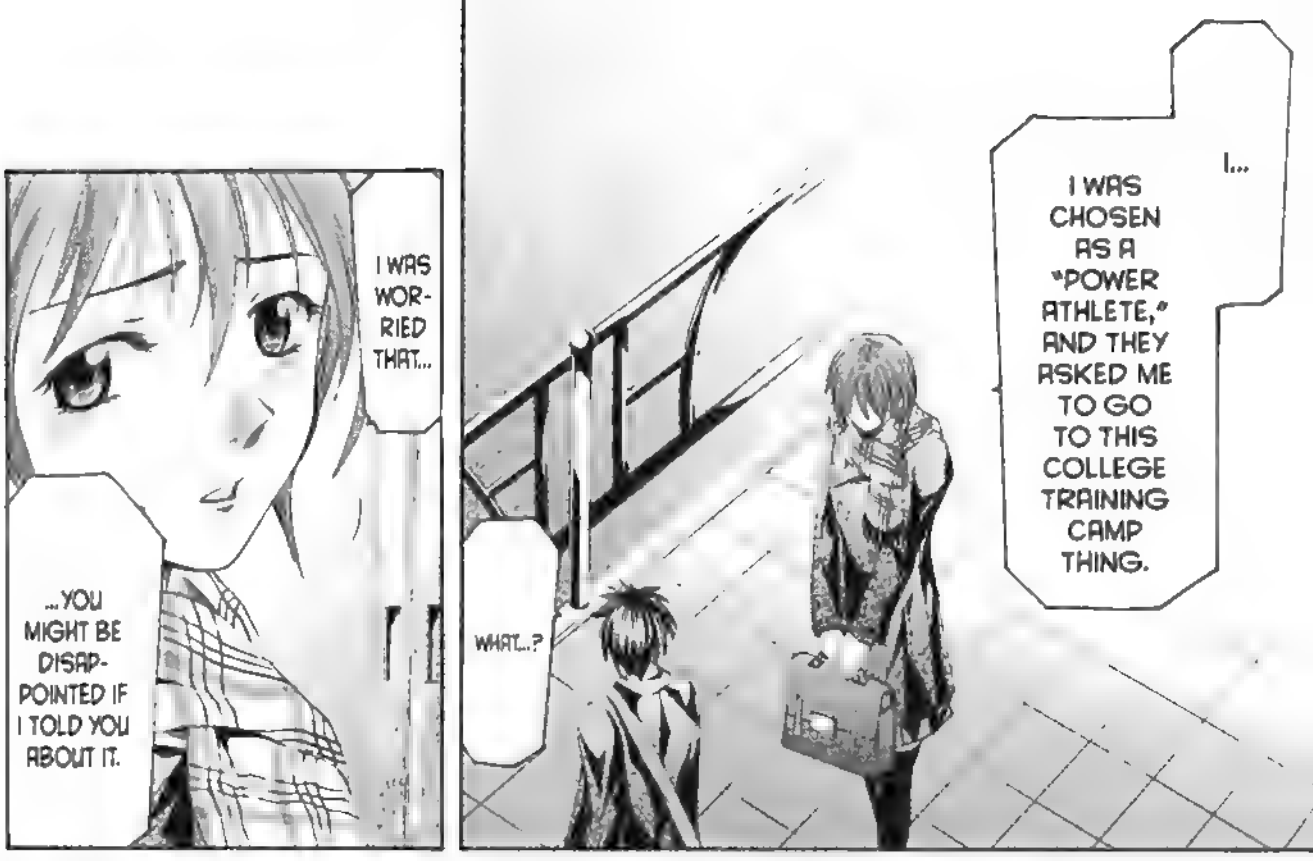

I'M SORRY TO BUG YOU ABOUT THIS. THANKS FOR THE ADVICE, AND THANKS FOR WALKING ME BACK HOME.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. GOOD LUCK, ASAHINA.

THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.
COME ON. THIS ISN'T LIKE YOU.

DOES SUZUKA-CHAN EVER ASK YOU FOR ADVICE? I BET SHE DOESN'T.
WHAT...

H-HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN STAND NG HERE!?
WHY DOES THAT MATTER?
!?
YAMATO-KUN!
WHAT WERE YOU GUYS TALKING ABOUT?
NO...
OH...
WHAT...?
SO WHAT? I'M NOT GOOD ENOUGH...?
WERE YOU...
...LIS-TENING TO US...?

YOU CAN TALK TO MIYA MOTO-SENPAI BUT...
...NOT ME?
"...THAT'S NOT...
...HOW "IS...
THEN WHAT'S THE DEAL?
IS THERE SOMETHING THAT YOU CAN'T TELL ME ABOUT?
.....


I...
I WAS CHOSEN AS A "POWER ATHLETE," AND THEY ASKED ME TO GO TO THIS COLLEGE TRAINING CAMP THING.
WHAT..?
I WAS WORRIED THAT...
...YOU MIGHT BE DISAPPOINTED IF I TOLD YOU ABOUT IT.

YOU SHOULD DO IT.
OF COURSE, YOU HAVE TO GO!
YEAH.. BUT..

WHY WOULD I BE DISAPPOINTED?
'CAUSE...

THE CAMP STARTS RIGHT WHEN WE GO ON WINTER BREAK.
IT'S THREE DAYS STARTING ON DECEMBER 22.
YEAH..

W-WELL, IT STARTS ON THE 22ND...
OF DECEMBER!!
SO WHAT?
SO, WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL? YOU'LL STILL HAVE PLENTY OF TIME TO ENJOY YOUR VACATION.
BUT IT'S ONLY THREE DAYS OUT OF THE WHOLE BREAK, RIGHT?
.....
THAT'S A HUGE STEP FOR YOU.
I DEFINITELY THINK YOU SHOULD GO.
IT'S A GREAT OPPORTUNITY.

WHA?
WHY ARE YOU MAD, ASAHINA?
FINE! I WILL GO!
IDIOT!!
FORGET IT!
DID I SAY SOMETHING WEIRD?

FINE! I WILL GO!
SIGH...
I DIDN'T MEAN TO MAKE HER MAD.
CLICK
I THOUGHT IT WAS PRETTY AMAZING THAT SHE WAS CHOSEN AS A "POWER ATHLETE."
MAYBE THE WAY I SAID IT DIDN'T SOUND SINCERE OR SOMETHING.

SUZUKA #82 Strength

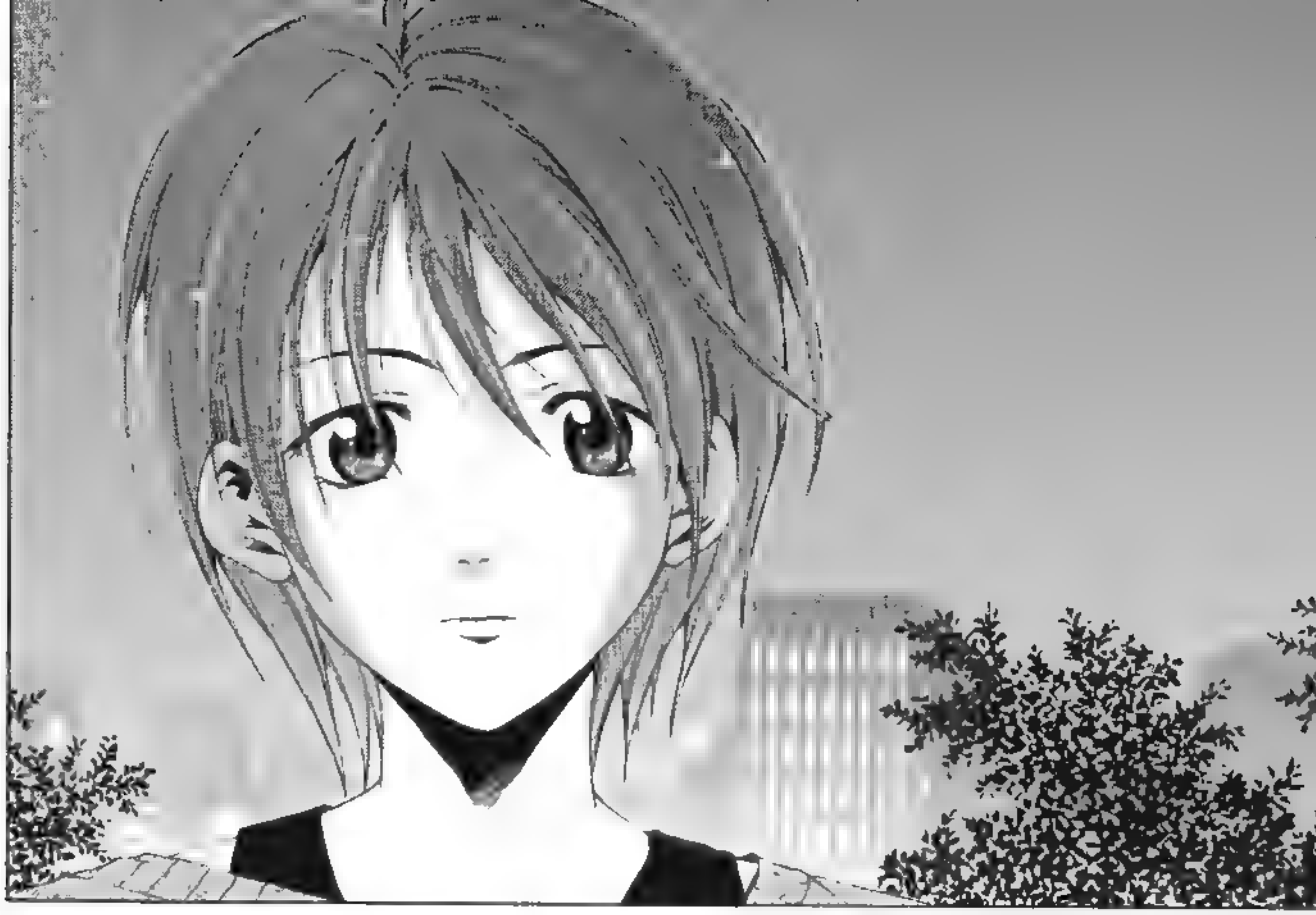
WHOA. YOU SCARED ME!!
FWISH
WHAT?
NOTHING.
UH...
WHAT IS IT...?
I-I'M SORRY ABOUT YESTER-DAY.
WHAT?
I, I REALLY WANNA SUPPORT YOUR DECISION TO GO TO THE CAMP...
SO... IF I MADE YOU FEEL BAD...
.....

NEVER MIND.
WHAT!?
IT'S JUST MY OWN STUFF I HAVE TO DEAL WITH.
H-HEY, ASAHINA. ARE YOU STILL MAD AT ME!?
NOT REALLY.

YEP, SHE'S MAD ALL RIGHT.
.....
NO...IT'S NOTHING...
IF YOU NEED TO TALK, I'M ALWAYS HERE FOR YOU.
WHAT'S UP, AKITSUKI. WHY THE LONG FACE?
EXCUSE ME? WANNA SAY THAT TO MY FACE?
WHY DON'T YOU JUST LEAVE HIM ALONE? EVER HEARD OF TACT?
WHAT...?
YOU STILL HAVEN'T PUT THE MOVES ON SUZUKA-CHAN, HUH?
WHAT...?

WHAT!? WHERE DID THAT COME FROM!!?
A-HA! YOU STILL HAVE A CRUSH ON YAMATO, DON'T YOU?
NO, WE DON'T! QUIT FILLING AKITSUKI'S HEAD WITH YOUR BULLSHIT!!
THWAP
YOU'VE GOTTA MAKE A MOVE FAST!
GIRLS ALWAYS WAIT FOR THE GUY TO MAKE HIS MOVE, YOU KNOW?
AH...ASA-HINA! WANNA WALK HOME TOGETHER AFTER PRACTICE?
SORRY.
THERE'S SOME-THING I HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF.

CLOPPA カッン
CLOPPA カッン
.....
.....
AH... OKAY...
WHAT DID YOU DO THIS TIME?
UH... DON'T KNOW...
WELL, YOU'D BETTER APOLO-GIZE.
I ALREADY APOLO-GIZED.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT ELSE TO DO.
...
ピンポン
DING-DONG
HUH...?



ASAHINA...
AH...

CAN I COME IN?
N-NO, OF COURSE I DO.

W-WHAT ARE YOU DOING STOPPING BY SO LATE?
WHY? YOU DON'T WANT ME HERE?

.....?

CAN'T YOU AT LEAST FIX ME A CUP OF TEA?
.....
AH, UM...
.....
チッ
TIK TOK
チッ
TIK TOK
チッ
.....SURE.
men's
12
TOP 30 CHRISTMAS DATE SPOTS!/
ZOOM IN- OUR READER'S SHOW US THEIR STYLE
EVEN THOUGH WE'RE GOING OUT, I STILL HAVE NO IDEA WHAT SHE'S THINKING.
IF SHE'S TRYING TO GET BACK AT ME FOR WHATEVER DID, SHE'S SURE BEING PASSIVE-AGGRESSIVE ABOUT IT.
WHAT DOES SHE WANT? SHE SHOWS UP OUT OF THE BLUE AND WANTS ME TO MAKE HER TEA?

AH...
OKAY, OKAY I'M SORRY HERE, IT'S READY!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? GO SIT DOWN.
GEEZ!! I JUST CAME TO SEE WHAT WAS TAKING YOU SO LONG.

.....
H-HEY...WHY DON'T YOU SAY SOMETHING, ASAHINA.
ARE YOU STILL MAD ABOUT YESTERDAY...?
.....
THE TEA'S LUKEWARM.
DID YOU BRING THE WATER TO A BOIL?
WHAT? OH, COME ON...
AND YOU LEFT YOUR SCHOOL UNIFORM ON THE FLOOR!
IT'LL GET ALL WRINKLED.
YEAH, WELL... I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT LATER, JUST LEAVE IT!

YOU'RE SUCH A SLOB!
I GET FRUSTRATED JUST WATCHING YOU, YAMATO-KUN!!
GRRR
WHAT!?
WHAT THE HELL IS UP WITH YOU?
SMASH
IF YOU'RE UPSET ABOUT SOMETHING, WHY DON'T YOU JUST TELL ME ALREADY?

FORGET IT!
N-NO... I'M NOT UPSET!! I JUST...
WAIT!!
FWISH
I'LL...
...MAKE YOU ANOTHER CUP OF TEA.
SO DRINK IT UP, AND JUST GO HOME.
FWUP

ガラン
PLINK

...DO YOU GET MAD SO EASILY...
WHY...
WHAT!!
I-I JUST WANTED TO DO THIS...
UH...B-BECAUSE...
...YOU'RE ALL ANNOYED....
ドキン
THUMP
ドキン
THUMP
I...

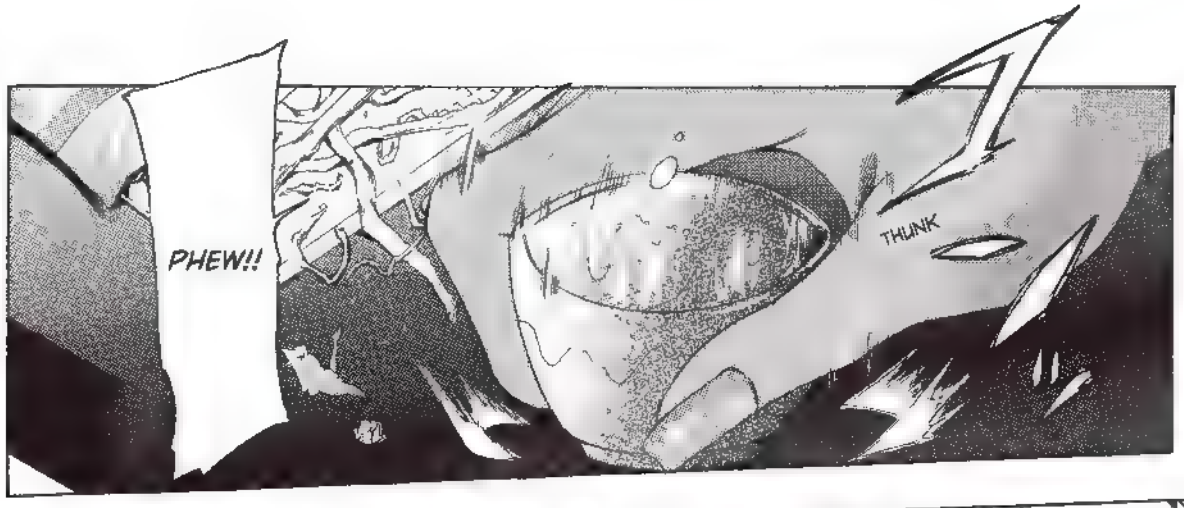
B-BYE!!
AH... WAIT A...
W-WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT...
GIRLS ALWAYS WAIT FOR THE GUY TO MAKE HIS MOVE, YOU KNOW?
NO...
NOT HER...

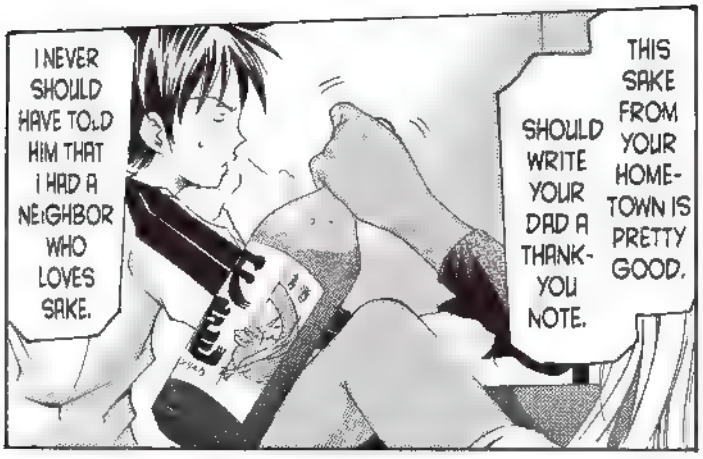
WHAT THE HELL?
I SURE WASN'T EXPECTING THAT...!
I-I JUST WANTED TO DO THIS...
NOW IT ALL MAKES SENSE!!
BUT, WHY DIDN'T SHE SAY SOME-THING?
SHE'S SO SHY!!
THUMPA
THUMPA
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE SECRETLY KNITTING A SWEATER FOR A GUY WHO IS SO CLUELESS THAT HE DOESN'T EVEN KNOW IT'S ALMOST CHRISTMAS.
I GUESS YOU'RE MORE GIRLY THAN I THOUGHT... TRYING TO PLEASE YOUR MAN LIKE THAT.
OKAY.
ALL RIGHT. I'LL TRY THAT.
TODAY I WENT OUT AND BOUGHT EVERYTHING YOU TOLD ME TO.
N-NO! IT'S JUST A THANK-YOU GIFT!
HE MAY BE CLUELESS, BUT HE'S TRYING TO BE THERE FOR ME... IN HIS OWN WAY.

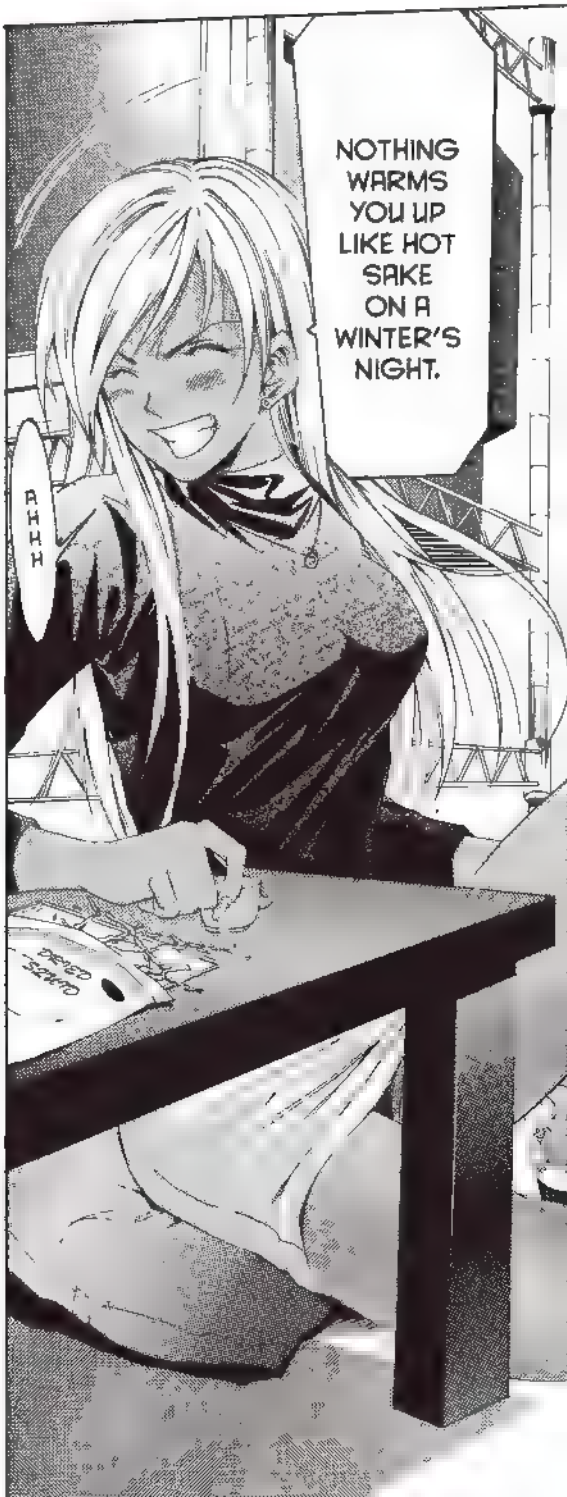
SO DID YOU MANAGE TO FIGURE OUT WHAT SIZE YAMATO-KUN WEARS?
WHAT...?
I DIDN'T GET HIS EXACT SIZE OFF HIS UNIFORM.
BUT...I KIND OF EYEBALLED IT, SO IT SHOULD BE FINE.
ARE YOU SURE? YOU ONLY HAVE A MONTH UNTIL CHRISTMAS.
HEY, WHAT'S THAT WEIRD NOISE?
I-I DON'T KNOW. IT MUST BE GORO-CHAN.
WAHH!!
WOO HOO!!
YAMATO-KUN SHUT UP!!
THUMPA
THUMPA
ドン
ドン
ドン
ドン

7"
BUBBLE
7"
BUBBLE
7"
.....
HEY, CHEF. IS MY SAKE READY YET? THIS BOTTLE'S EMPTY!
COMING, JUST WAIT A SEC.
SHIT. WHY THE HELL SHOULD I HAVE TO DO THIS.
THIS ISN'T A FREAKIN' BAR.
IF YOU DON'T HURRY, I'M GONNA SEND THAT LITTLE MOVIE I TOOK OF YOU TO SUZUKA-CHAN'S CELL PHONE.
WAAHH!! NO, WAIT!!

#83 Treasured
SUZUKA


PHEW!!
THUNK


I NEVER SHOULD HAVE TOLD HIM THAT I HAD A NEIGHBOR WHO LOVES SAKE.
SHOULD WRITE YOUR DAD A THANK-YOU NOTE.
THIS SAKE FROM YOUR HOME-TOWN IS PRETTY GOOD.


NOTHING WARMS YOU UP LIKE HOT SAKE ON A WINTER'S NIGHT.
AHHH

I'M SORRY FOR ALWAYS COMING OVER AND BUGGING YOU, YAMATO-KUN.
ぼく
GRIN
ぼく

WHAT...?
OH, NO... IT'S ALL RIGHT...

THE GUY THAT I TOLD YOU ABOUT THE OTHER DAY SAID HE WANTS TO MAKE UP.
HE SAID WE COULD SPEND CHRIST-MAS TO-GETHER.

UH, WELL...
YEAH, HE'S RIGHT.
IS SOME-THING WRONG?
YOU'VE BEEN THROW-ING 'EM BACK, BUT YOU'RE STILL QUIET.
WHAT'S UP WITH YOU TODAY?

OH YEAH. IT'S ALMOST CHRISTMAS-TIME.
Oh, THAT'S GOOD.
I GET IT...YOU'RE HAPPY TODAY! THAT'S WHY YOU'RE NOT GOING BAL-IS-TIC LIKE YOU USUALLY DO.

CHRIST-MAS, HUH...
IS IT REALLY THAT BIG A DEAL? EVERYONE GOES TO THE SAME STUPID SHOPS, AND BUYS THE SAME STUPID PRESENTS... WHO NEEDS IT?

I'LL GO OUT WITH THE GUY WHO GOT ME THE PRICIEST BIRTHDAY PRESENT.
A GOOD PRESENT IS THE ONLY PROOF OF A MAN'S LOVE.

OH MY GOD... DID YOU HEAR THAT?
I HATE GUYS WHO TALK LIKE THAT.
I KNOW. HOW CAN GUYS SAY STUFF LIKE THAT?
WHAT!?
POOR SUZUKA. IT'D SUCK TO HAVE A BOY-FRIEND LIKE YOU.
YEAH.
H-HOLD ON, ASAHINA ISN'T THE TYPE OF GIRL WHO NEEDS A BUNCH OF EXPENSIVE GIFTS.
WHAT...?
IT'S NOT THAT WE WANT EX-PENSIVE STUFF.
ANNIVER-SARIES AND HOLI-DAYS ARE REALLY IM-PORTANT FOR GIRLS!
THOSE ARE THE TIMES WHEN YOU REALLY WANNA BE WITH THE ONE YOU LOVE.
UH...

OH, COME ON, IT'S JUST ONE DAY A YEAR. EVERYBODY CELEBRATES IT.
IF YOU DON'T PLAN ANYTHING FOR CHRISTMAS, YOU'RE BASICALLY SAYING "I DON'T REALLY CARE ABOUT YOU".
.....
NEVER MIND...
IT'S MY OWN STUFF I HAVE TO DEAL WITH.
OH...
SO THAT'S WHAT SHE MEANT.
I HAD NO IDEA...
...SHE WANTED TO BE WITH ME THAT MUCH.

AH...HEY, GUYS! WHAT ABOUT DECEMBER 25TH? IS THAT TOO LATE!?
ARE YOU STUPID? ONCE YOU HIT CHRISTMAS DAY, PEOPLE ARE TOO BUSY GETTING READY FOR NEW YEAR'S.
SOMEHOW, I HAVE TO FIGURE OUT A WAY...
...TO SPEND CHRISTMAS EVE WITH ASAHINA!

THE TRAINING CAMP?
WHAT...?

WELL...I DON'T KNOW. I JUST WANNA TRY TRAINING IN A...UH...
...MORE COMPETITIVE ENVIRONMENT.

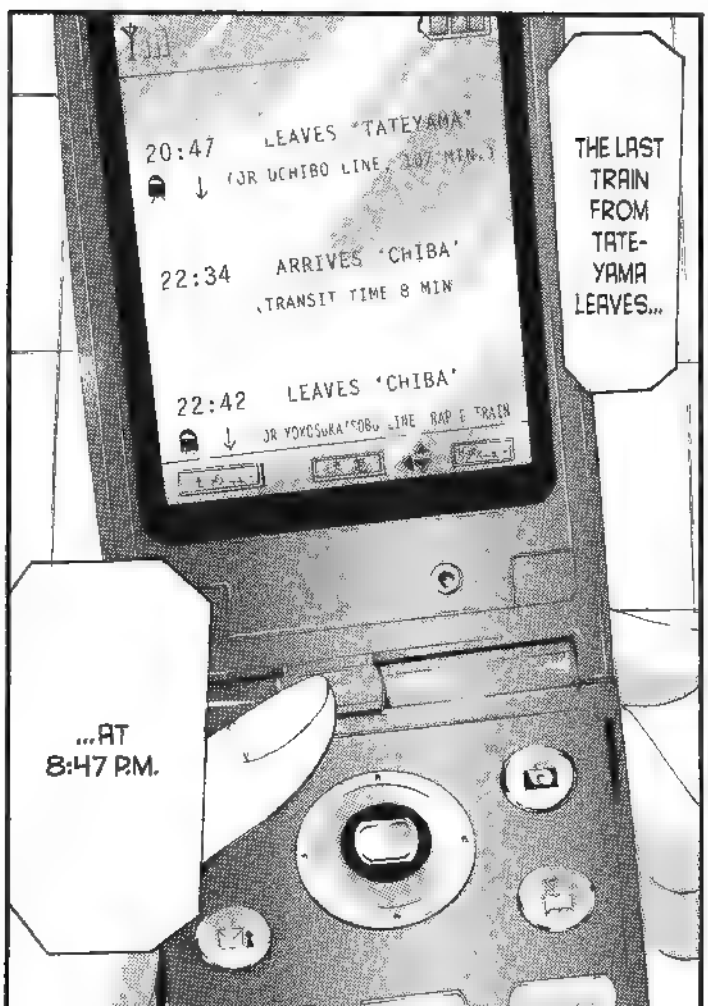
WHAT'S GOING ON? WHY ARE YOU SUDDENLY SO INTERESTED IN GOING?
YEAH... CAN'T I GO, TOO?

AH...
UH...BUT IF YOU DON'T THINK IT'S A GOOD IDEA, THEN...
GLARE
HUH...!?
FWUP
GREAT!
I DIDN'T THINK YOU WERE TAKING YOUR TRAINING SO SERIOUSLY.
SORRY, AKITSUKI! I FEEL BAD FOR UNDERESTIMATING YOU.
I KIND OF DOUBTED YOU. I THOUGHT YOU WERE STILL JUST GOING THROUGH THE MOTIONS.
.....

AH... SO... WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE CAMP...?
2-B
OH... RIGHT... UH.
WELL, IT'S A LITTLE LATE TO ASK THEM NOW.
BESIDES, IT DOESN'T REALLY WORK LIKE THAT, THEY HAVE TO INVITE YOU. SO...
IT'S NOT GONNA HAPPEN.
BUT DON'T YOU WORRY!
WHAT...
AH... AKIT-SUKI!!
FWOOSH
ACTUALLY, I THINK I'LL HEAD HOME FOR BREAK AND DO SOME HIGH ALTITUDE TRAINING.
I'LL COME UP WITH A TRAINING REGIMEN THAT'S EVEN MORE RIGOROUS THAN THE CAMP'S. WE CAN TRAIN TOGETHER, JUST THE TWO OF US.
THUNK
N-NO! THAT'S OKAY, YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THAT!!
...JUST TELL ME. I'LL TRAIN WITH YOU ANY-TIME.
IF YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND...

WHY THE HELL WOULD I WANNA SPEND CHRISTMAS EVE TRAINING WITH ANOTHER DUDE?
GIVE ME A BREAK.

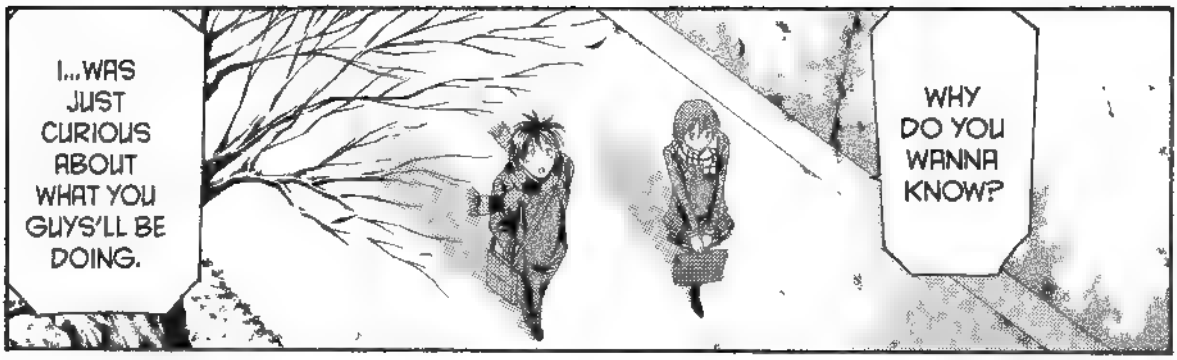
I GUESS I'LL JUST HAVE TO GO VISIT HER ON CHRISTMAS EVE.
SHIT, WHAT AM I GONNA DO.


20:47 LEAVES 'TATEYAMA'
(JR UCHIBO LINE, 107 MIN.)
22:34 ARRIVES 'CHIBA'
(TRANSIT TIME 8 MIN
22:42 LEAVES 'CHIBA'
JR YOKOSUKA/SOBU LINE RAPID TRAIN
THE LAST TRAIN FROM TATEYAMA LEAVES...
...AT 8:47 P.M.

SHE SAID THAT THE TRAINING CAMP WAS IN TATEYAMA...
CLICK
CLICK

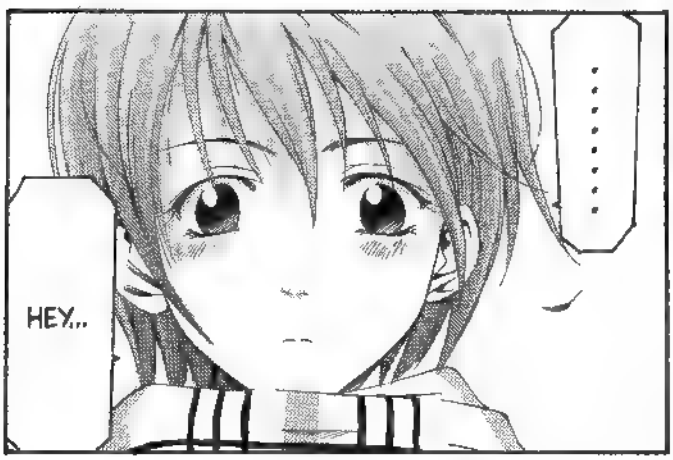
I DON'T KNOW IF I COULD EVEN MAKE IT, AND IT'LL DEPEND ON WHAT TIME SHE FINISHES PRACTICE.
PIAP
IF I'M NOT CAREFUL I COULD END UP MISSING THE LAST TRAIN HOME.
YAMATO-KUN!!
FWOOSH
SORRY I'M LATE.
OH, UH...
I WAS TALK-ING TO COACH ABOUT THE TRAINING CAMP.
IT'S OKAY. DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
LET'S GO HOME.
YEAH, OKAY...
12
SEIKO

MY SCHEDULE FOR THE CAMP?


I...WAS JUST CURIOUS ABOUT WHAT YOU GUYS'LL BE DOING.
WHY DO YOU WANNA KNOW?

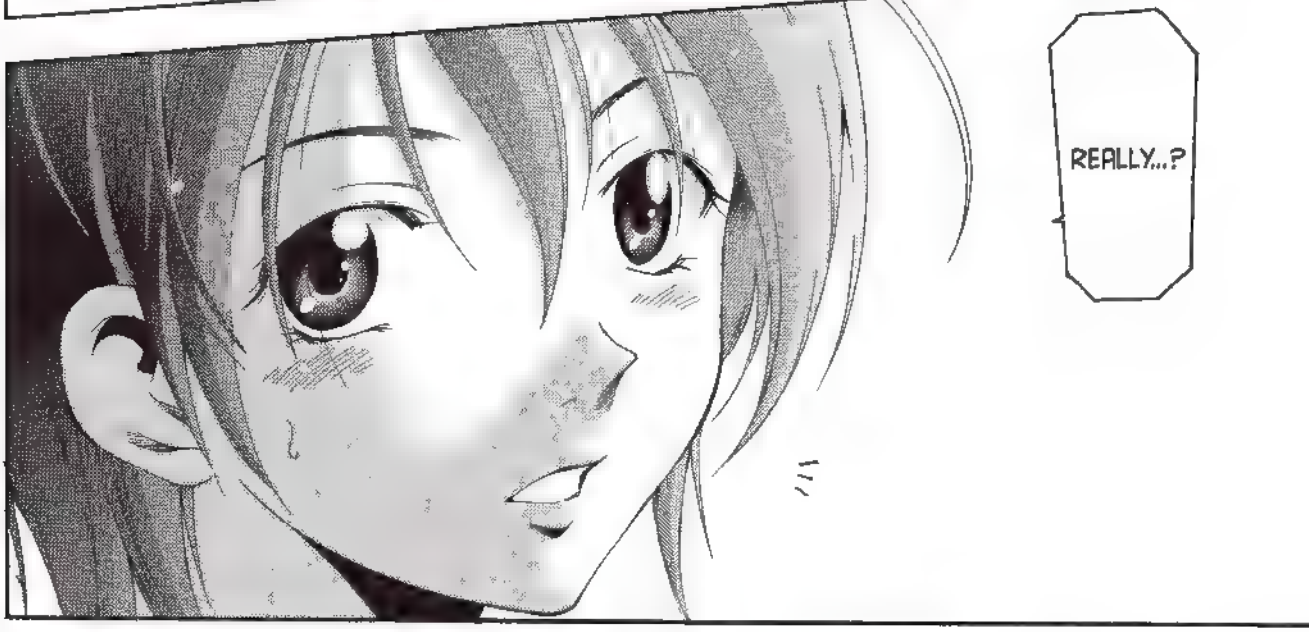
BUT I GUESS I CAN STILL SEE HER FOR A LITTLE BIT.
SIX O'CLOCK... THAT'LL MAKE IT PRETTY HARD.

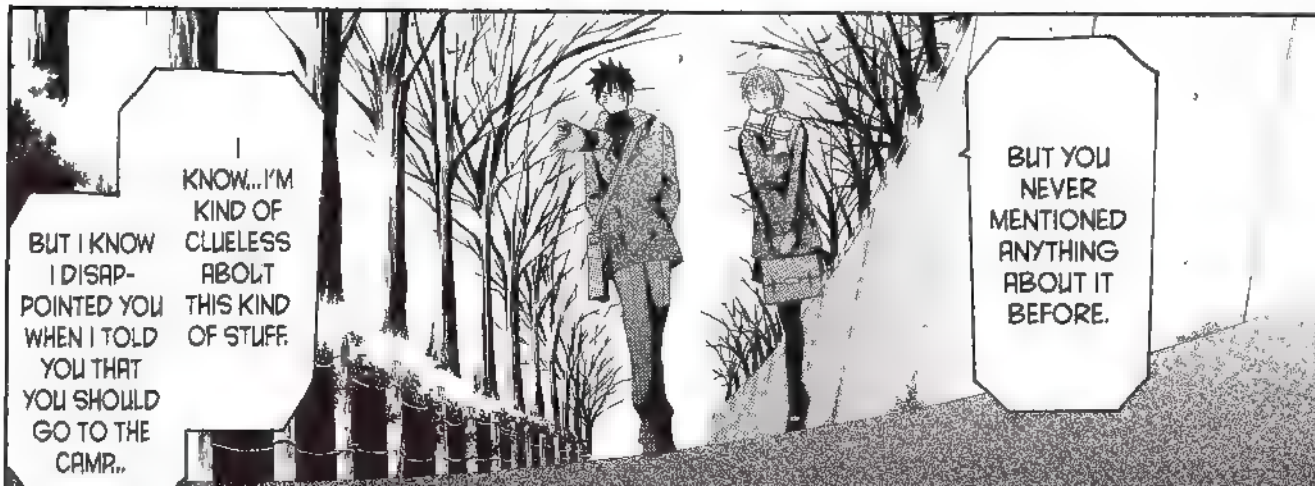
WELL...I DON'T REALLY KNOW ALL THE DETAILS YET.
BUT IT LOOKS LIKE PRACTICE STARTS AT NINE IN THE MORNING AND GOES TILL SIX IN THE EVE-NING.


HEY..
.....

WHY DID YOU WANNA GO TO THE TRAINING CAMP?
WHAT!?
UH...
WELL...
MIYAMOTO-SENPAI TOLD ME...
...YOU WERE ASKING ABOUT IT.
OH...
WELL...
I THOUGHT I SHOULD PICK UP THE PACE WITH MY TRAINING A LITTLE.
STEP
WELL, IT'S JUST THAT...

...ACTUALLY, THAT'S BULLSHIT. THE TRUTH IS, I JUST WANTED TO SPEND...
...CHRIST-MAS EVE WITH YOU.


REALLY...?


BUT YOU NEVER MENTIONED ANYTHING ABOUT IT BEFORE.
I KNOW... I'M KIND OF CLUELESS ABOUT THIS KIND OF STUFF.
BUT I KNOW I DISAP-POINTED YOU WHEN I TOLD YOU THAT YOU SHOULD GO TO THE CAMP...

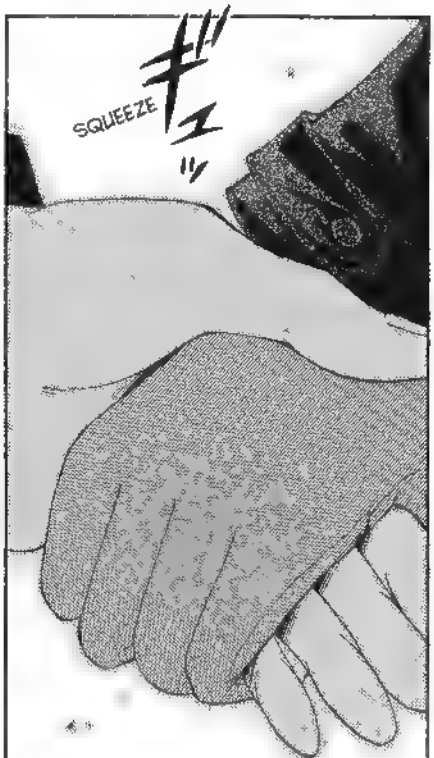
ANYWAY, I THOUGHT MAYBE IF I WENT, TOO, I COULD AT LEAST SEE YOU ON CHRISTMAS EVE...
...EVEN IF IT WAS JUST FOR A LITTLE BIT.
.....
CLOPPA
CLOPPA
AH...
I'M SORRY...
I DON'T WANNA GET IN YOUR WAY OR ANYTHING...
WELL...I DON'T REALLY KNOW MY SCHEDULE FOR THE 24TH AND IT'S KIND OF LATE TO PLAN SOMETHING NOW.
...ALL RIGHT
I'M SORRY..
.....

B-BUT...
...WE COULD JUST CELEBRATE IT ON THE 21ST...
WELL...
R-REALLY!? YOU'D BE OKAY WITH THAT!!?
WHAT?

...NOT DOING ANYTHING.
IT BEATS...

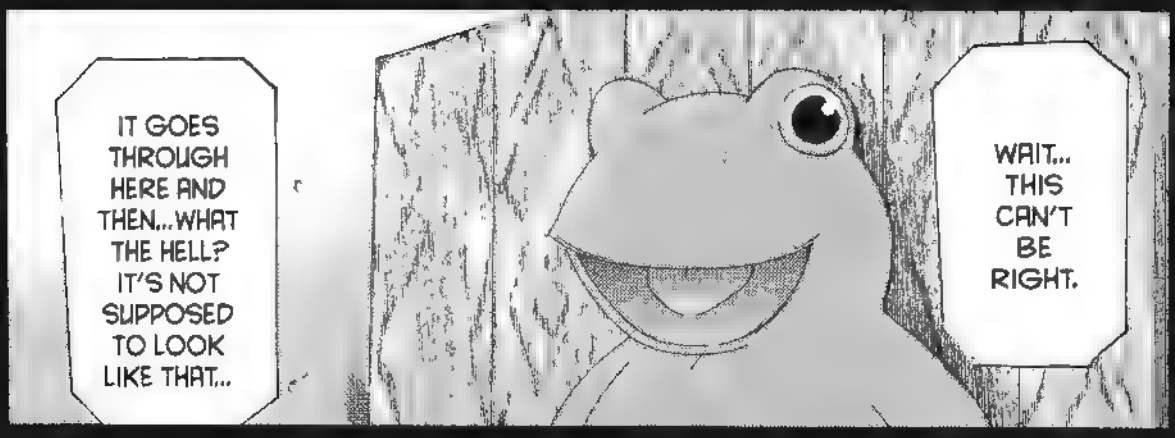
OKAY, COOL!! THIS TIME I'LL REALLY PLAN THINGS OUT!
A-ALL RIGHT!!

I DON'T WANT YOU GETTING SICK ON OUR BIG DAY.
COME ON, LET'S GO HOME!


SQUEEZE

ASAHINA

I WON'T GET SICK. I GREW UP IN SNOW COUNTRY, REMEMBER!
HUH? IT SNOWS IN HIRO-SHIMA?
YEAH, IT SNOWS LIKE CRAZY WHERE I LIVE.
I'M GLAD I SAID SOMETHING.
REALLY, I DIDN'T KNOW THAT.
YUP.
IF THEY CAN MAKE A GIRL THIS HAPPY
...I GUESS HOLIDAYS AREN'T SO BAD AFTER ALL.


IT GOES THROUGH HERE AND THEN...WHAT THE HELL? IT'S NOT SUPPOSED TO LOOK LIKE THAT...
WAIT... THIS CAN'T BE RIGHT.

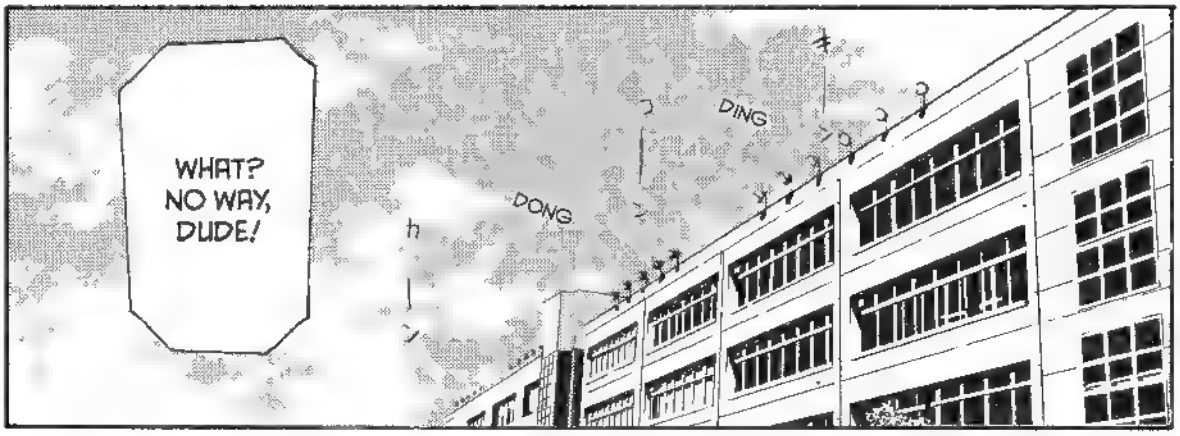
TANGLED
ぐ
ち
や

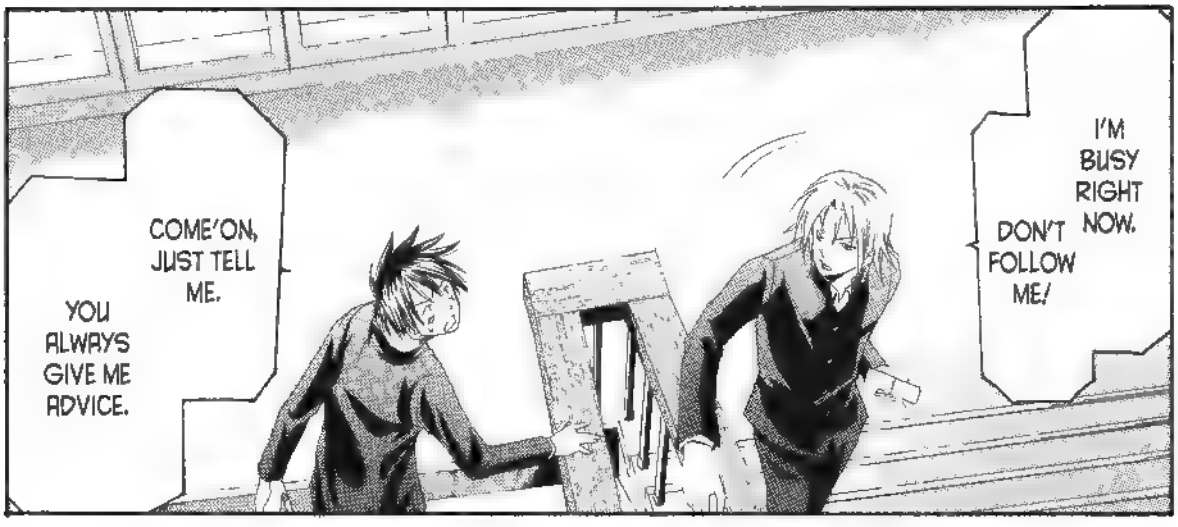
I HAVE LESS THAN TWO WEEKS TO FINISH IT!
21
I DON'T KNOW IF IT'LL BE DONE ON TIME.
CHRISTMAS WITH YAMATO-KUN

GOTTA FINISH!!
NO! I CAN'T GIVE UP!

SUZUKA

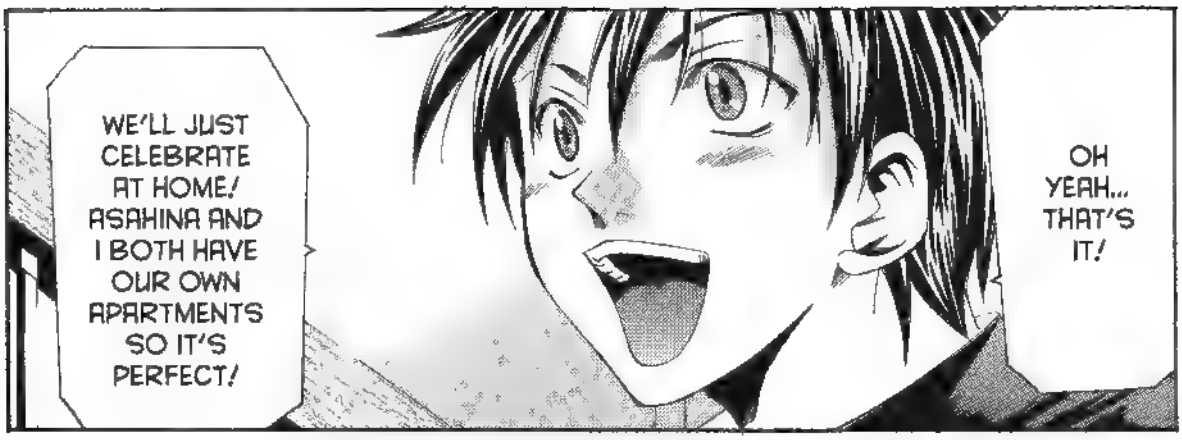
#84 Plans


WHAT? NO WAY, DUDE!
DING
DONG

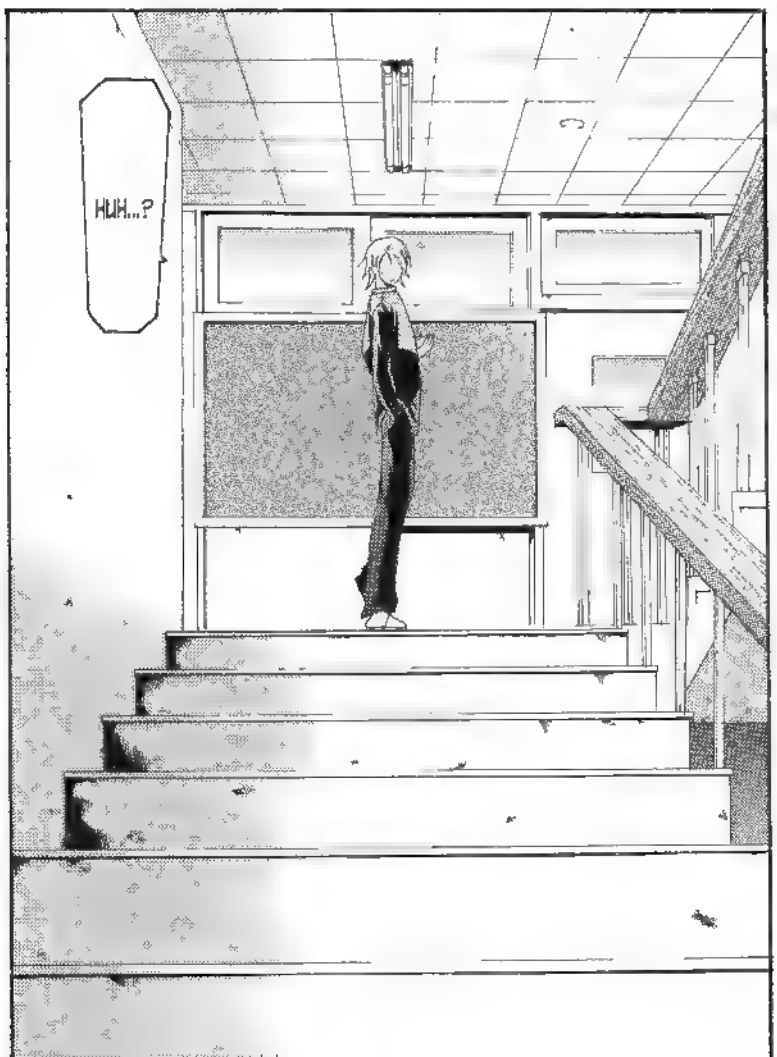

I'M BUSY RIGHT NOW.
DON'T FOLLOW ME!
COME ON, JUST TELL ME.
YOU ALWAYS GIVE ME ADVICE.

I'M SICK OF HEARING ABOUT YOUR STUPID PROBLEMS.
YOU WOULDN'T EVEN LISTEN TO MY ADVICE ANYWAY.
I INVITED HER OUT ON A DATE FOR CHRISTMAS...
BUT I DON'T KNOW WHERE TO TAKE HER.

COME ON, MAN. DON'T SAY THAT.
I'LL FOLLOW YOUR ADVICE THIS TIME.
TRY THINK-ING FOR YOUR-SELF FOR ONCE IN YOUR LIFE!!
AH, SORRY, AYA-CHAN. THIS FRIEND OF MINE WON'T STOP FOLLOW-ING ME AROUND.
NO, NO. IT'S A GUY!
DON'T LISTEN TO HIM. HE'S CHEAT-ING ON YOU!!
THAT'S A LIE. HE'S JUST MAD BECAUSE HE'S NOT AS POPULAR AS I AM.
SHIT...
HE CARES MORE ABOUT SOME STUPID GIRL THAN HIS REAL FRIENDS.
OH, YEAH.... WELL... EVERY-WHERE'S SO CROWDED ON CHRIST-MAS EVE. IT'S JUST TOO MUCH, YOU KNOW...
SO I WAS THINKING, WE SHOULD JUST HANG OUT AT YOUR APARTMENT, AYA-CHAN. I MEAN, SINCE YOU'VE GOT YOUR OWN PLACE AND EVERYTHING... I CAN BRING YOU A CHRISTMAS CAKE.
HA HA. COME ON, I WOULDN'T DO THAT TO YOU, BABE.

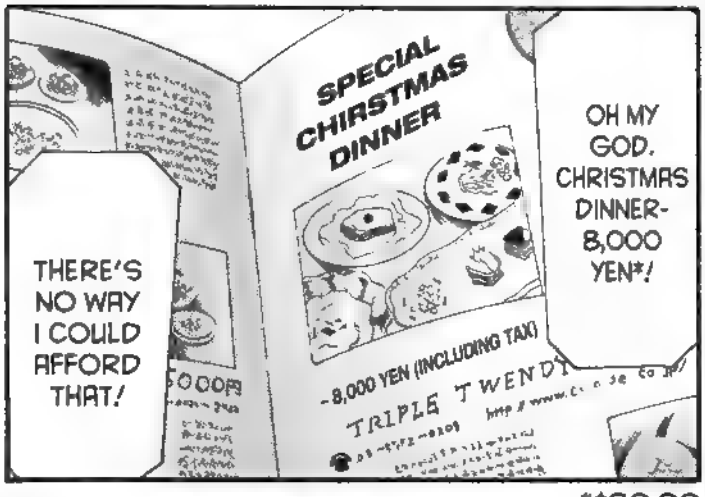

OH YEAH... THAT'S IT!
WE'LL JUST CELEBRATE AT HOME! ASAHINA AND I BOTH HAVE OUR OWN APARTMENTS SO IT'S PERFECT!

OKAY, BABE! I'LL GET YOU AN AMAZING CAKE.
SO COOK UP SOME-THING NICE FOR ME, ALL RIGHT?
LATER.


HUH...?

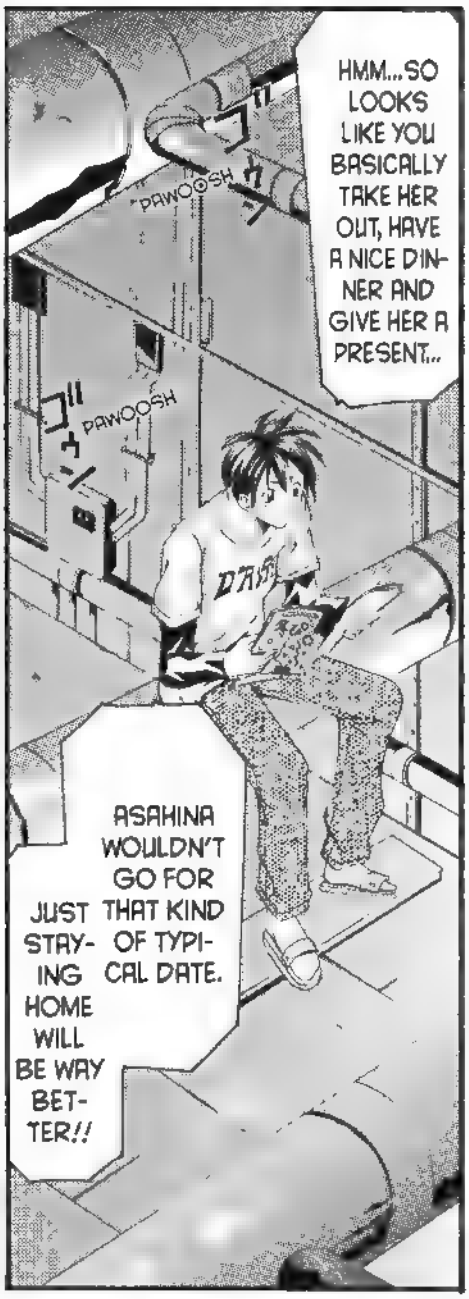
SO... WHAT WERE YOU SAY-ING...?
FWAP

ASAHINA BATHS


SPECIAL CHIRSTMAS DINNER
-8,000 YEN (INCLUDING TAX)
TRIPLE TWENDY
OH MY GOD. CHRISTMAS DINNER- 8,000 YEN*!
THERE'S NO WAY I COULD AFFORD THAT!

*$80.00

BUT I'D BETTER GET HER SOMETHING NICE.
MAP INSIDE
PIA
DECEMBER-FEBRUARY: WINTER HOLIDAY!
CHRISTMAS SPECIAL
ASAHINA WOULD BE PISSED IF I JUST GAVE HER A BAG OF CHOCOLATES LIKE DAD ALWAYS GETS FOR PEOPLE...


HMM...SO LOOKS LIKE YOU BASICALLY TAKE HER OUT, HAVE A NICE DINNER AND GIVE HER A PRESENT...
PAWOOSH
PAWOOSH
ASAHINA WOULDN'T GO FOR THAT KIND OF TYPICAL DATE.
JUST STAYING HOME WILL BE WAY BETTER!!

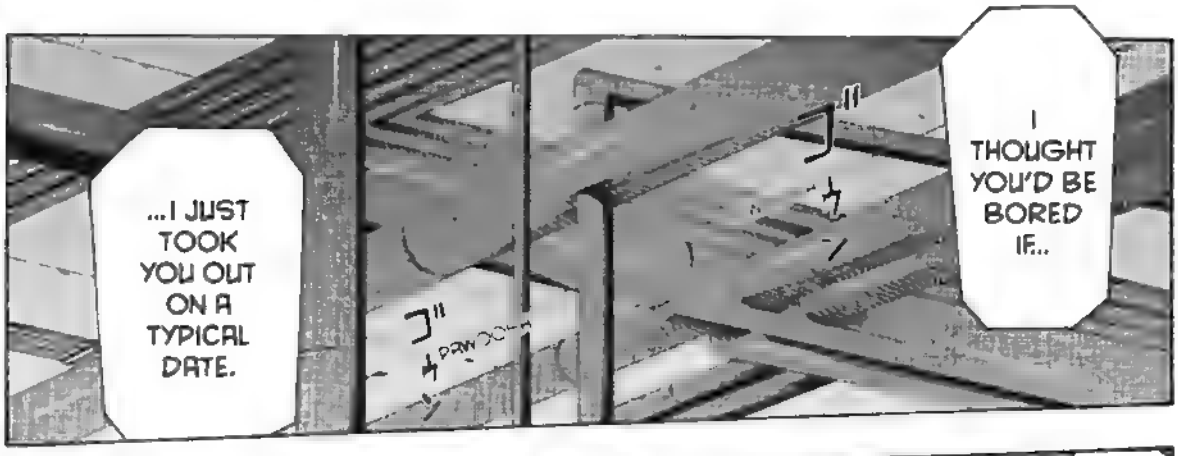
HEY, YAMATO-KUN. THERE'S NO HOT WATER!
POUND
POUND
BLEEP
BLEEP
WHOA! SHIT... IT'S OUT OF FUEL!!
SHIT...I DON'T EVEN HAVE TIME TO MAKE PLANS.
DAISY
I NEED A RAISE, OTHER-WISE THIS JOB RE-ALLY ISN'T WORTH IT.
HURRY UP AND FIX IT! HOW AM I SUP-POSED TO TAKE A SHOWER?
BOOM
YEAH, YEAH. I'VE GOT IT!!
BOOM
CLICK
HUH...?

YAMATO-KUN...
CAN I TALK TO YOU FOR A MIN-UTE...?
S-SURE!
JUST A SECOND. LET ME JUST FINISH THIS...
I'M FIXING IT RIGHT NOW!!
BOOM
BOOM
HURRY IT UP AL-READY!
DON'T MAKE ME COME OVER THERE!!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT..?
CAN I HELP..?
NO, IT'S FINE. I'VE ALMOST GOT IT...SO WHAT'S UP?

AH, I'VE GOT PLANS ALREADY!
OH, REALLY? WHAT'S YOUR PLAN...?
CHRISTMAS LIGHT NIGHTSPOTS
SKIING AND SNOW BOARDING
UH...
I THOUGHT MAYBE WE COULD PLAN OUR CHRISTMAS TOGETHER.
EVERYWHERE GETS TOTALLY CROWDED ON CHRISTMAS EVE, SO...
I THOUGHT WE COULD CELEBRATE RIGHT HERE AT HOME!!
I'LL GET A CHRISTMAS CAKE, SO WHY DON'T YOU MAKE DINNER, AND...
AH... YOU DON'T LIKE THAT IDEA...?
OF COURSE DON'T SO WHAT, YOU JUST WANNA EAT HARDBOILED EGGS FOR DINNER?
HUH? WELL NO, BUT...
WHY DON'T YOU JUST TRY PUTTING A LITTLE EFFORT INTO IT AND MAKE SOMETHING ELSE?
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU'RE BUSY OR ANYTHING.
EFFORT? I MAKE PLENTY OF EFFORT, I JUST CAN'T...

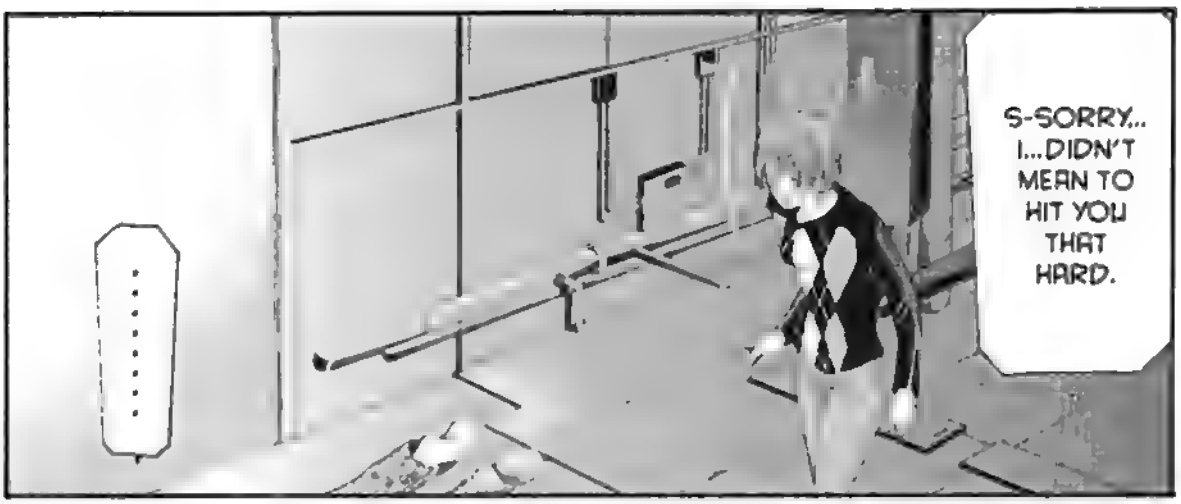
IF YOU'RE JUST GONNA HALF-ASS EVERYTHING THEN THERE'S NO POINT IN CELEBRATING ANYWAY.
...FORGET IT.
YOU ARE SO FULL OF SHIT! YOU JUST DON'T WANT TO GO THROUGH THE TROUBLE OF FINDING A GOOD PLACE.
W-WAIT!! I'M NOT TRYING TO HALF-ASS ANYTHING...
NO, THAT'S NOT TRUE AT ALL!!
WHOA!?
THAT'S NOT WHAT I WAS DOING...

THWAP
WATCH IT!
H-HEY...
S-SORRY...
.....
L-LOOK...
I WASN'T JUST BEING LAZY, OKAY...
WHAT...?


I THOUGHT YOU'D BE BORED IF...
...I JUST TOOK YOU OUT ON A TYPICAL DATE.
ゴゴゴ
ドドド

AH...
WAIT...
YAMATO-KUN...
.....

STOP IT!!
SMACK
WAAHH!!
AH...!
THUD


S-SORRY... I...DIDN'T MEAN TO HIT YOU THAT HARD.
.....

IF YOU HAD TO PUNCH ME LIKE THAT.
YOU MUST REALLY HATE ME...

I DON'T WANNA HEAR IT...IT'LL JUST MAKE ME FEEL WORSE...
NO, JUST LISTEN!!

N-NO! I ONLY SAID "STOP IT," BECAUSE...

IT'S NOT THAT I DON'T LIKE YOU, YAMATO-KUN...
.....

JUST NOT TODAY!!
I NEED YOU TO WAIT JUST A LITTLE LONGER.
S-SO, JUST PLAN OUT A NORMAL DATE FOR US, OKAY?
A-ARAKINA!!
FWOOSH
DAIS
WHAT...?

バタン
...TODAY...?
WINTER PIA
DECEMBER-
FEBRUARY-
WINTER HOLIDAY
CHRISTMAS SPECIAL
J-JUST NOT...
SPLASH
AHHH!
HOT!
HOT!
HOT!
I GUESS THAT WHOLE EPISODE WASN'T REALLY A BIG DEAL AFTER ALL.
IF SHE REALLY MEANT THAT, THEN...
HMMM...
.. JUST NOT TODAY?
DAISY

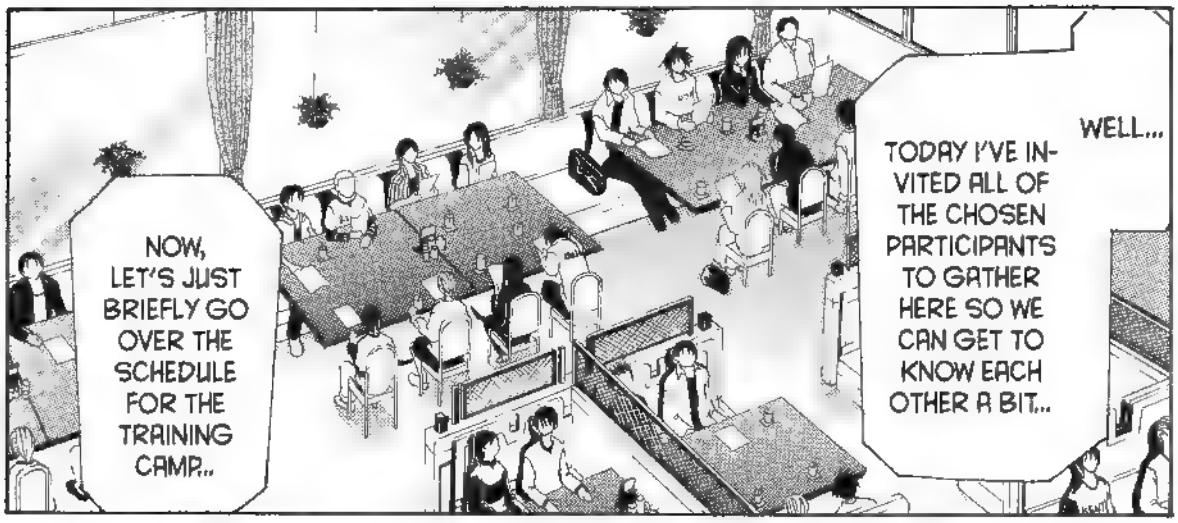
!!
HUH...?
ONLY TEN MORE DAYS UNTIL CHRIST-MAS
OUCH!!
YOU'VE GOT SOME NERVE!

MAN... WINTER BREAK JUST STARTED AND YOU ALREADY HAVE TO GO TO A MEETING ABOUT THE CAMP?
OKAY, I'M LEAVING.
YEAH, BUT IT'S JUST A LITTLE MEET AND GREET KIND OF THING, SO I'LL BE DONE SOON.
OH, OKAY.
SO, I'LL WAIT FOR YOU IN FRONT OF THE STATION AT FIVE.
LET'S GO OUT FOR DINNER.
SUZUKA

SUZUKA

#85 Yui

21
ALL RIGHT! THE BIG DAY IS FINALLY HERE.
I MADE DINNER RESERVATIONS, AND I BOUGHT HER A PRESENT... EVERYTHING IS PERFECT!!
I KNOW IT'LL MAKE ASAHINA REALLY HAPPY...
IT'S GONNA BE SO ROMANTIC...
.....
JUST NOT TODAY!!
I NEED YOU TO WAIT JUST A LITTLE LONGER!?
WOO HOO!!
TODAY'S THE DAY!!
THUMPA
THUMPA
HEY, YAMATO-KUN. IF YOU'RE NOT DOING ANYTHING, WHY DON'T YOU GO CLEAN THE BATHS!


NOW, LET'S JUST BRIEFLY GO OVER THE SCHEDULE FOR THE TRAINING CAMP...
WELL... TODAY I'VE INVITED ALL OF THE CHOSEN PARTICIPANTS TO GATHER HERE SO WE CAN GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER A BIT...

WHA-..
.....

AH...! SORRY!!
ARE YOU LISTENING, ASAHINA!?

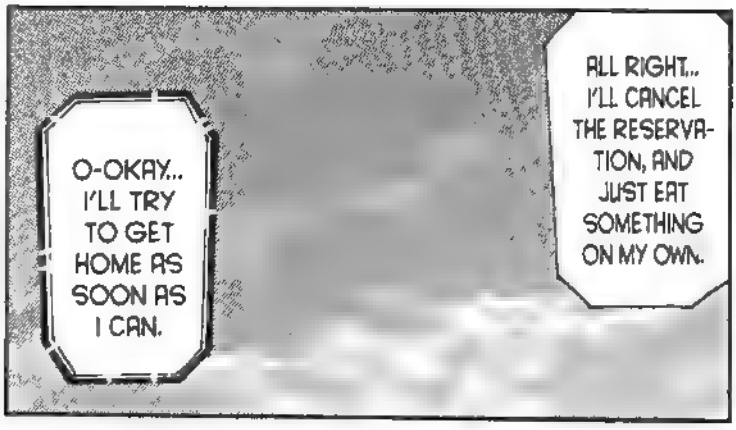
SHIT...!

WHAT'S HE DOING HERE...!!?

I WOULDN'T HAVE EVEN DONE THIS IF I'D KNOWN HE WAS GONNA BE HERE.
CHATTER
CHATTER
IT'S ALMOST FIVE...
SHE'S LATE.
I'M REALLY SORRY. HAD TO DO A LITTLE SHOPPING!
YOU'RE LATE.
TCH...
SORRY!!

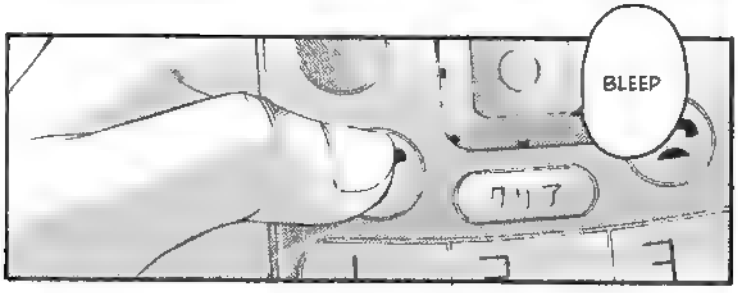
MAYBE...
SHOULD CALL HER.
CELL PHONES
FALTER...
HEY... YOU'RE LATE.
DID YOU JUST FINISH?
INCOMING CALL
ASAHINA
BUZZ
BUZZ
HUH...?
YOU CAN'T MAKE IT...BUT I ALREADY MADE A RESERVATION!!
Y-YEAH. I KNOW, BUT...
WHAT?
I DON'T THINK I CAN MAKE IT AT FIVE.
AH... IT LOOKS LIKE THE MEETING'S GOING TO TAKE A WHILE.

ARE YOU SERIOUS?
I GUESS IT'S NOT JUST A MEET AND GREET. NOW THEY WANNA HAVE A MEETING ABOUT THE HIGH JUMP.
I WOULDN'T FEEL RIGHT GETTING UP AND LEAVING IN THE MIDDLE.


O-OKAY... I'LL TRY TO GET HOME AS SOON AS I CAN.
ALL RIGHT... I'LL CANCEL THE RESERVATION, AND JUST EAT SOMETHING ON MY OWN.

I'M REALLY SORRY...

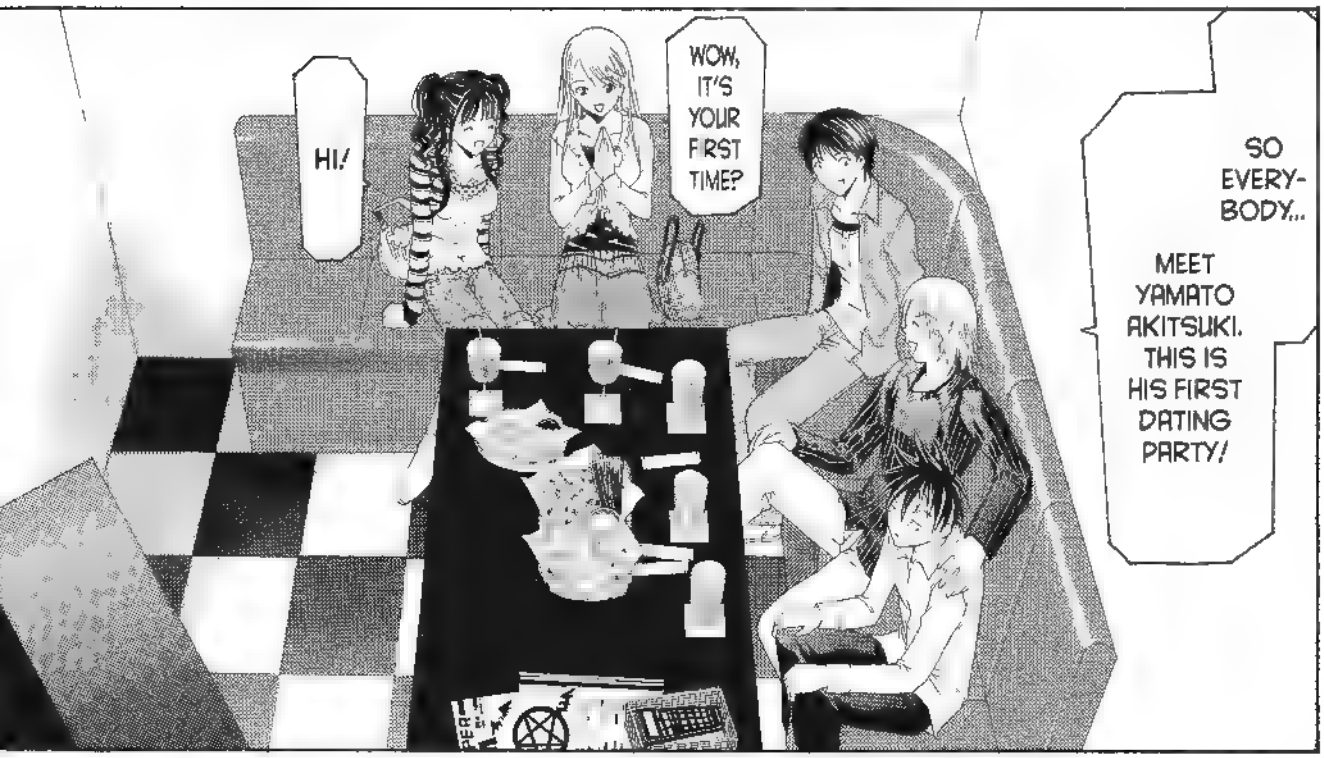
OKAY... SEE YA.
I'LL GET A CAKE ON THE WAY AND WAIT FOR YOU AT HOME.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.


BLEEP

SHE HAS TO BE THERE... IT'S NOT HER FAULT...
BEEP BEEP
Ah. HI. HAVE A RESERVATION FOR SIX O'CLOCK UNDER THE NAME AKITSUKI.
TOBU-TOJO LINE NARIMASU STATION NORTH EXIT
SLUMP
SIGH...
YO, YAMATO!
HUH...?
NOTHING...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? YOU LOOK DEPRESSED. WHAT'S WRONG?
HEY, WANNA GO GET SOMETHING TO EAT?
WE'LL SPLIT THE BILL.
WHAT...?

ALL RIGHT! COME ON.
SURE, LET'S GO.

WELL... IF I GO HOME ALL ALONE I'LL JUST BE DE-PRESSING, SO...
.....

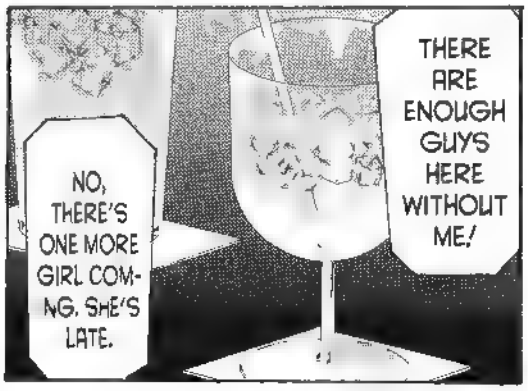

HI!
WOW, IT'S YOUR FIRST TIME?
SO EVERY-BODY...
MEET YAMATO AKITSUKI. THIS IS HIS FIRST DATING PARTY!

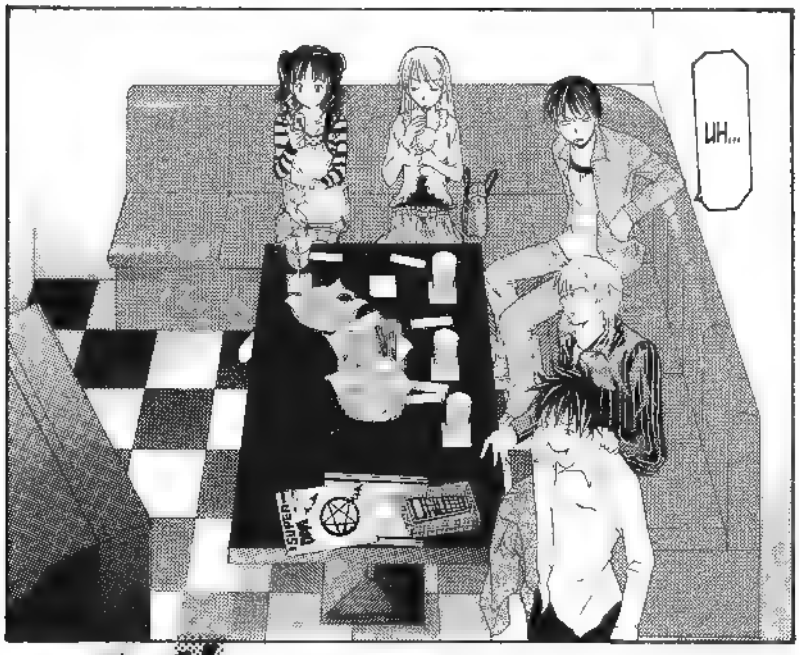
.....
SORRY BUT, COME ON, MAN... HELP A GUY OUT.
ONE OF THE GUYS COULDN'T MAKE IT!

DA—
DATING PARTY...?

WAH...! WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING!!
FWISH
NO FREAKIN' WAY! I'M GOING HOME!

YEAH...
THIS S AWK-WARD...
HEY, HAT-TOR...


THERE ARE ENOUGH GUYS HERE WITHOUT ME!
NO, THERE'S ONE MORE GIRL COM-NG. SHE'S LATE.

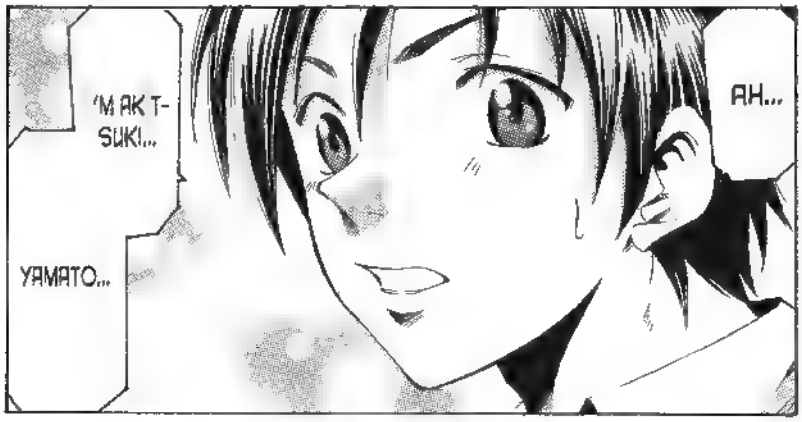

UH...

S-SORRY. HE'S KIND OF SHY.
HE'S USUALLY MORE FUN, BUT...

CLICK
SORRY I'M LATE!!

I'M YUI AMAMI. NICE TO MEET YOU!
I'M SO SORRY...I WENT CLOTHES SHOPPING AND I LOST TRACK OF TIME.
AH... YEAH. I GUESS...
RAN ALL THE WAY HERE, AND I'M SO THIRSTY!
CAN I ORDER SOME JUICE?
HMM... SEEMS LIKE KIND OF AN AIR-HEAD, BUT SHE'S CUTE.
SHE'S ALWAYS LIKE THAT.
THAT'S WHAT'S SO FUN ABOUT HER.

SO.
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?


AH...
'M AK T-SUKI...
YAMATO...

N-NO. I WAS GONNA...
HEY, QUIT STANDING AROUND. SIT DOWN!
YANK

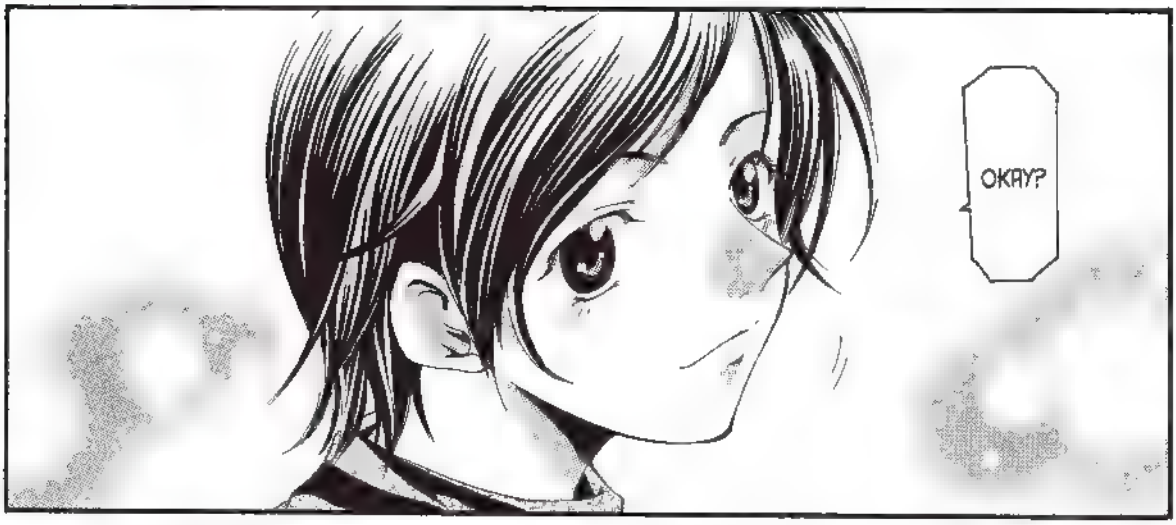
COME ON, JUST SING SOME-THING. WHAT ABOUT THAT ONE SONG!?
NOW THAT YUI'S HERE THE MOOD'S FINALLY STARTING TO PICK UP, COME ON...HELP A GUY OUT.

OKAY, YAMATO-KUN. HOW 'BOUT SINGING SOME-THING FOR US?
WHAT'S YOUR FAVOR-ITE SONG?
W-WHAT!? NO WAY. FORGET IT.

SING! SING!
.....

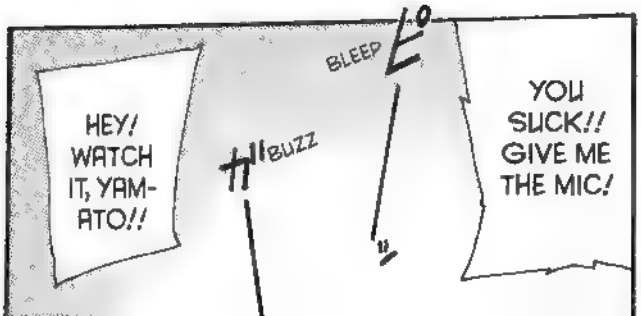
ズンチャ
DA DUM
SAN-FRECCE
ズンチャ
DA DUM
SAN-FRECCE!!
HEY, WHAT ABOUT THE HI-ROSHIMA CARP SONG?
YOUR SPAR-KLING EYES!!
IS HE TRY-ING TO RUIN THE PARTY...?
WHAT!?
IT'S SAN-FRECCE HIROSHIMA'S THEME SONG...IT'S CALLED "RO-MANTIC HAT TRICK."
HA HA HA, OH MY GOD. WHAT IS THAT SONG!!?
ケラケラ
TEE HEE
OWWW, MY STOM-ACH!
I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYBODY SING THAT SONG BEFORE.
YAMATO-KUN YOU'RE SO FUNNY! SING SOME-THING E.SE FOR US.
HUH...
THEY ACTU-ALLY LIKED IT!

I WANT TO HEAR YAMATO-KUN SING IT!
WHAT!?
HEY!! MAYBE I'LL SING THE HIROSHIMA CARP THEME SONG!!
NO WAY, THEY HAVE A THEME SONG, TOO!?
WHAT!? THAT'S MY SONG, YASU-NOBU!!


OKAY?

!!
CARP, CARP, CARP, HIRO-SHIMA!!

THIS CHICK'S...
...KINDA WEIRD...


HEY! WATCH IT, YAM-ATO!!
BUZZ
BLEEP
YOU SUCK!! GIVE ME THE MIC!

HMMPH...
I GOT OUT EARLY...
...BUT I CAN'T EVEN GET THROUGH TO YAMATO-KUN'S CELL.
パタ
SWAP
Buona
STEP
ボギー堂
4F
.....!
THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
I'M JUST WALKING HOME.
HEY, WHY ARE YOU FOLLOW-ING ME?
ヘヘヘ

.....
...WHAT-EVER.

LET'S SEE. ANY CALLS FROM ASAHINA...? NOPE...
MAYBE SHE'S STILL AT THE MEET-ING...?

...OH SHIT... . DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE THAT MY CELL WASN'T GETTING RECEPTION N THE KARAOKE PLACE.
CLICK
I GOT TOTALLY CARRIED AWAY.

STEP 十II
WHAT?
YAMATO-KUN!

!?
I GOT YA!!
WHAT WERE YOU DOING? TEXTING LITTLE LOVE MESSAGES TO YOUR GIRL-FRIEND?
TCH, NO...
YOU NEVER CAME BACK FROM THE BATH-ROOM, SO I DECIDED TO COME FIND YOU.
SQUEEZE
SQUEEZE
AH... SORRY...
GET OFF OF ME!
.....
HMMMM

OH!
THANK GOOD-NESS.
WHAT...?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

I'D BETTER GET GOING.
YOU'RE GONNA CATCH COLD IF YOU STAY OUT HERE.
COME ON. LET'S GO BACK INSIDE.
C'MON, HURRY!
華京
STOP IT...!!
WOULD YOU JUST LET GO OF ME?
.....!

SUZUKA #86 The Fight

YAMATO-KUN...
.....
WHAT...?
TSSSSWARA
A-ASAH NA
WHAT ARE YOU...
...DOING HERE...?

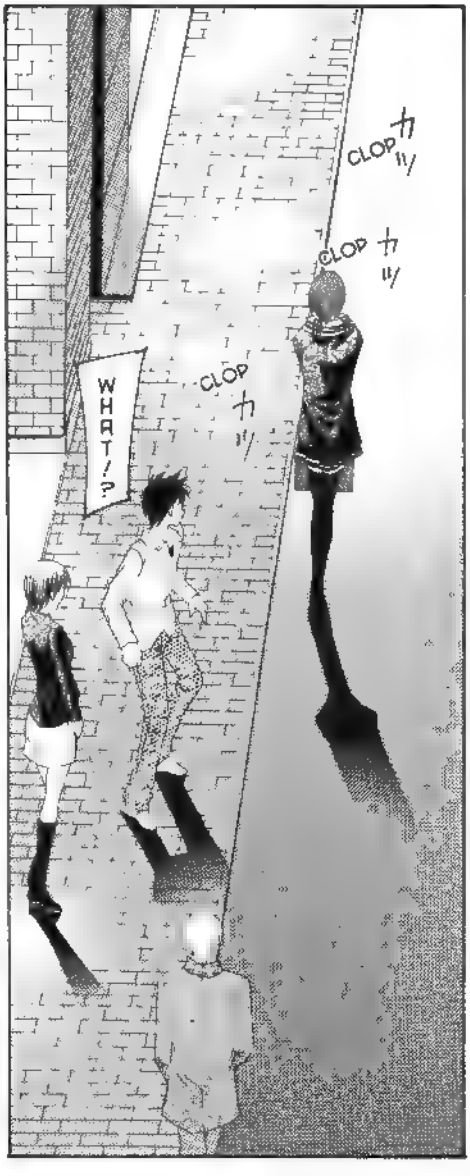
うどん

!!
FWEESH
AH...
THIS SN'T WHAT T LOOKS . KE!!

AH... YAMATO-KUN!
W-WAIT A SECOND, ASAHINA!!

S-SORRY, BUT I'VE GOTTA GO!!

.....


CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
WHAT!?

CLOPPA
カツン
CLOPPA
カツン
HEY, IT'S REALLY NOT WHAT YOU THINK!
YASUNOBU TRICKED ME INTO GOING TO THIS PARTY!
CLOP
カツン
CLOP
カツン
H-HEY, ARE YOU LISTEN-ING?
PLEASE SAY SOME-THING...
STEP
カツ
I RAN INTO HIM RIGHT AFTER I GOT OFF THE PHONE WITH YOU.
HE SAID WE SHOULD GO HAVE DINNER SO...

WELL, THEN, WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST GO HOME?
INSTEAD OF HANGING OUT WITH THEM FOR HOURS AND HOURS.

I TRIED TO GO HOME, BUT THEY KEPT STOPPING ME, SO...
WELL... UH...

THAT'S WHY I WENT OUT-SIDE... TO CALL YOU...
AND THEN...

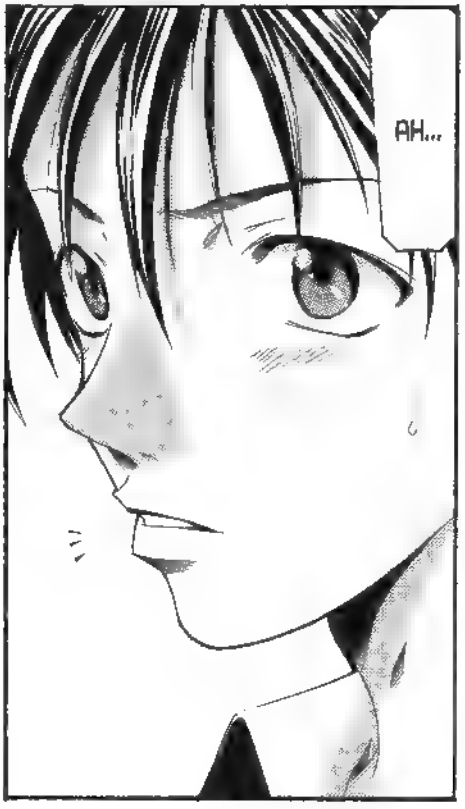
THEN...
WHAT...?

YOU LIAR! YOU WERE HAVING SO MUCH FUN YOU DECIDED TO TURN OFF YOUR PHONE.
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW MANY TIMES I CALLED YOU?
I-I DIDN'T TURN IT OFF...I DIDN'T HAVE ANY RECEP-TION, THAT'S ALL...

YEAH? WELL, I WASN'T HAVING SO MUCH FUN THAT I FORGOT ABOUT EVERYTHING ELSE.
Y-YOU KNOW HOW IT IS...I JUST FELT LIKE I COULDN'T LEAVE.
JUST LIKE YOU WERE SAYING ABOUT YOUR MEETING.

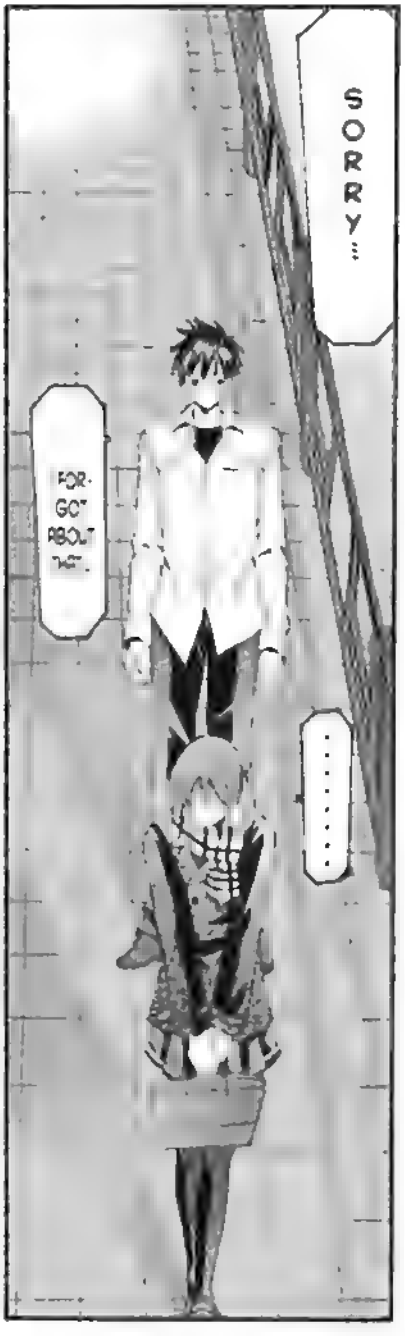
AND... WEREN'T YOU GONNA BUY A CAKE?
I-I DIDN'T FORGET...

I'M SURE...
...EVERY BAKERY IN TOWN IS CLOSED NOW...


AH...

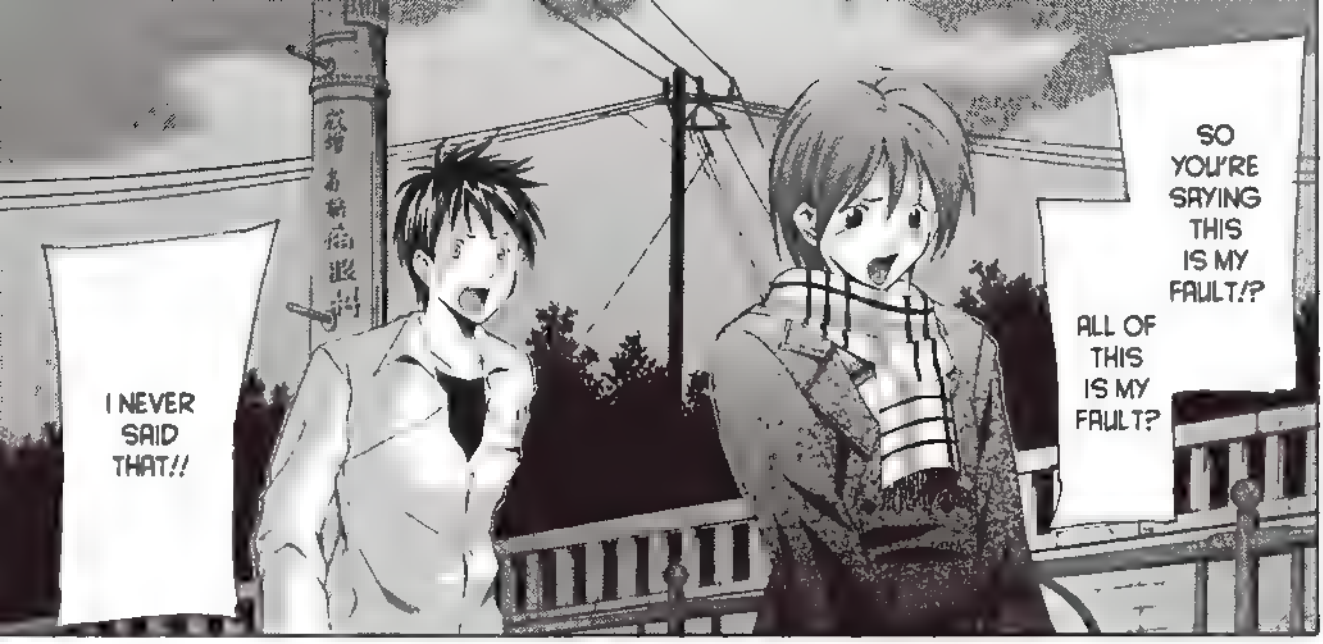
UH...
YEAH...

IF THAT'S HOW YOU'RE GONNA BE, YOU SHOULDN'T EVEN BOTHER MAKING PROMISES.
YOU'RE ALWAYS LIKE THAT...ALL TALK AND NO ACTION.

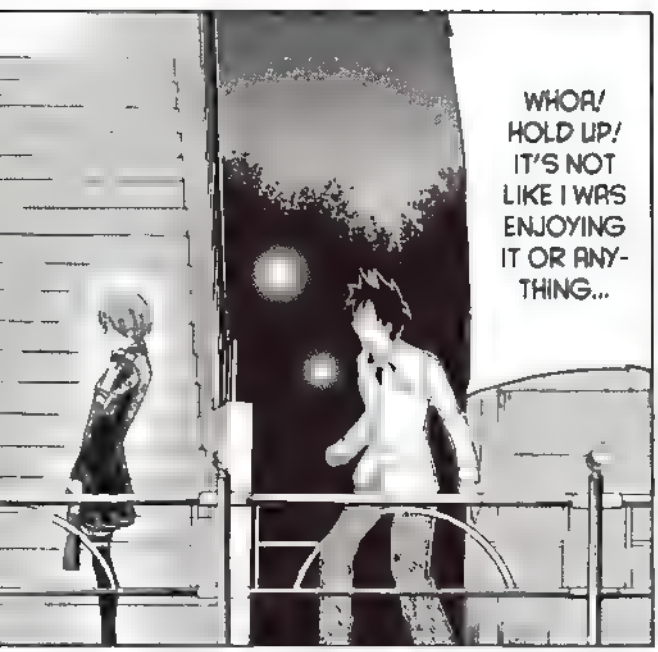

SORRY...
FOR-GOT ABOUT THAT.
.....

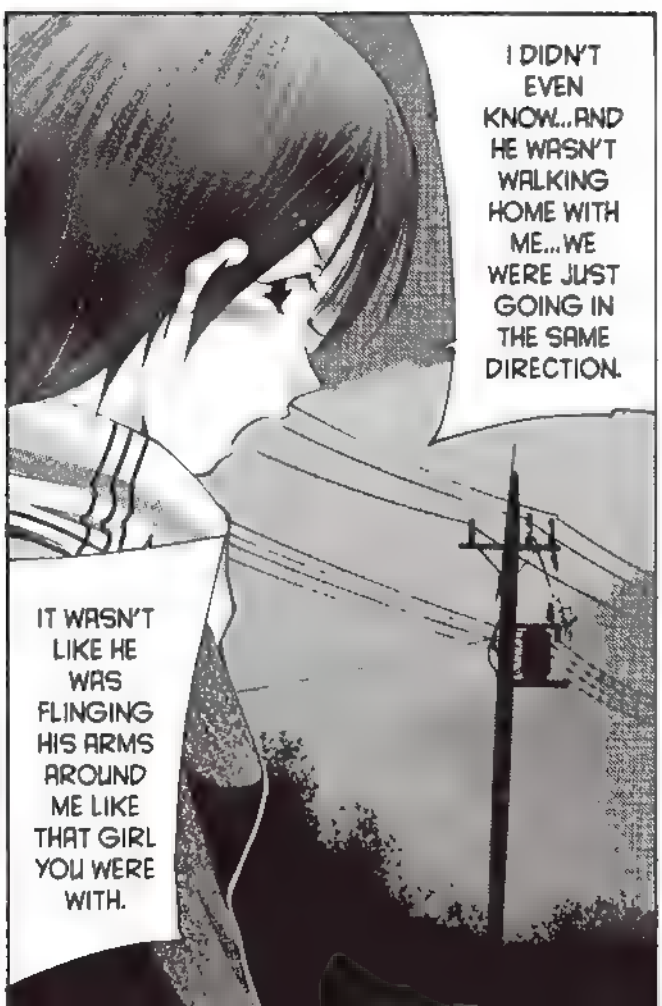
THE WHOLE REASON OUR DINNER DIDN'T WORK OUT WAS BE-CAUSE YOU COULDN'T MAKE IT!
W-WAIT A SECOND!

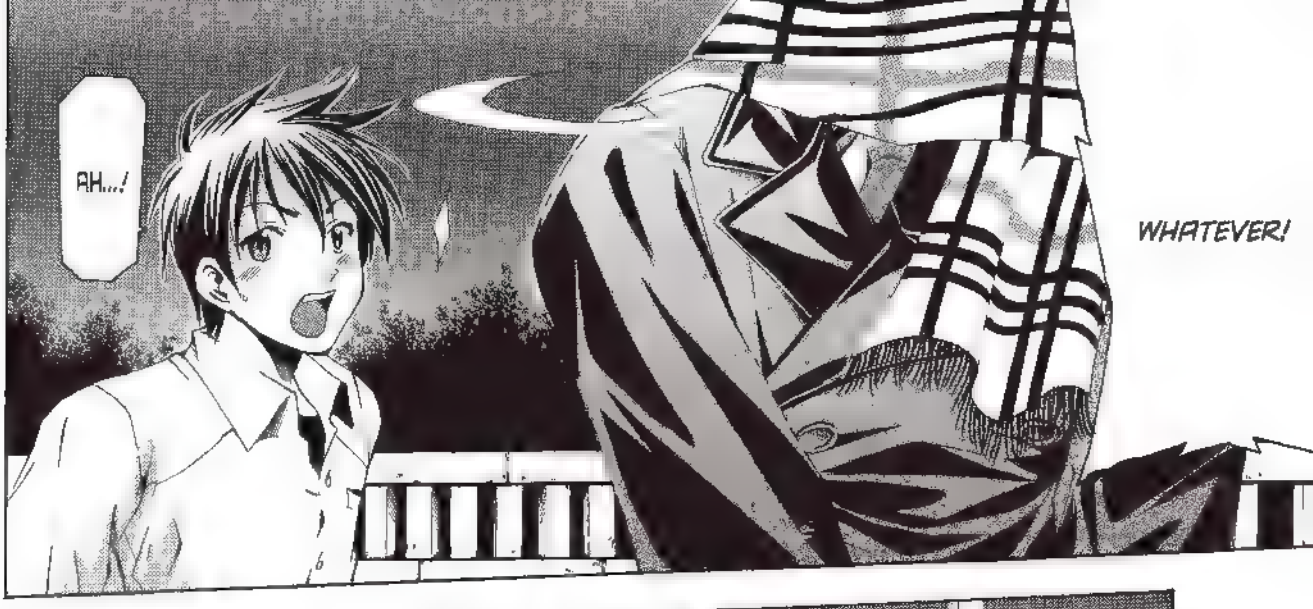
YEAH, BUT...
W-WELL...


I NEVER SAID THAT!!
ALL OF THIS IS MY FAULT?
SO YOU'RE SAYING THIS IS MY FAULT!?

YOU DIDN'T TELL ME HE WAS GONNA BE AT THE CAMP!!
...AND WHY WERE YOU WALKING HOME WITH ARIMA!?

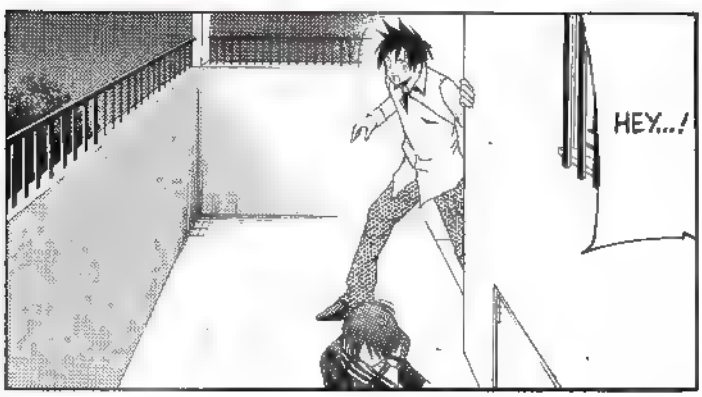

WHOA! HOLD UP! IT'S NOT LIKE I WAS ENJOYING IT OR ANY-THING...

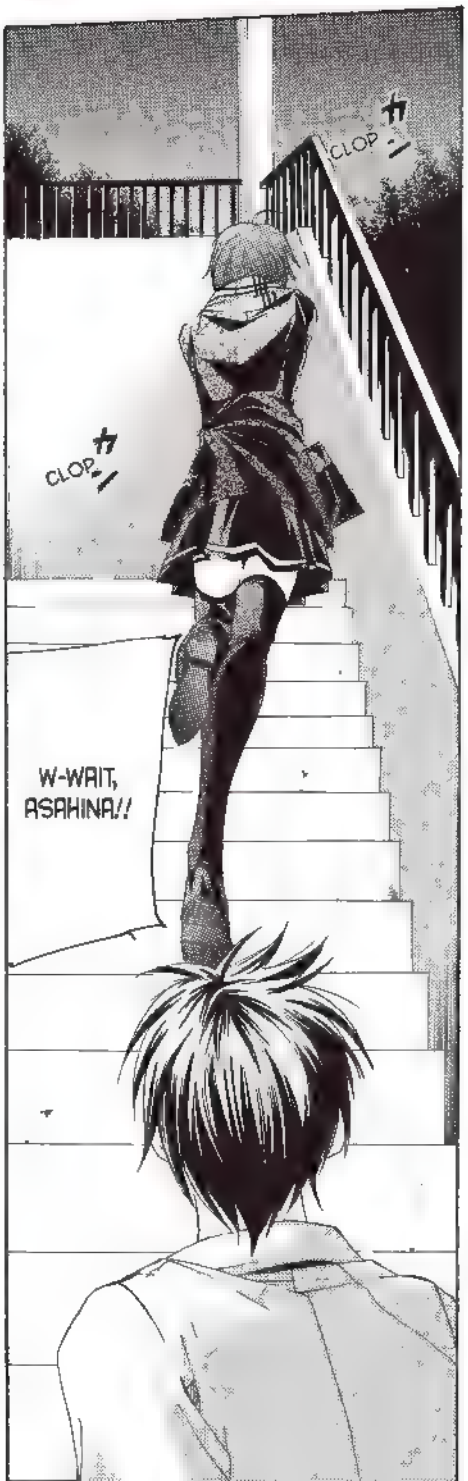

I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW...AND HE WASN'T WALKING HOME WITH ME...WE WERE JUST GOING IN THE SAME DIRECTION.
IT WASN'T LIKE HE WAS FLINGING HIS ARMS AROUND ME LIKE THAT GIRL YOU WERE WITH.


AH...!
WHATEVER!

WAIT!
ASAHINA!

CLOP
CLOP


HEY...!


CLOP
CLOP
W-WAIT, ASAHINA!!

WHAT THE HELL?
SO IT'S ALL MY FAULT?

GOOD MORN-ING...
SLIDE
IS... ASAHINA STILL SLEEPING?
UH...
YOU'RE UP EARLY TODAY.
THE RICE ISN'T QUITE READY YET, SORRY.
SHE LEFT?
OH... SUZUKA-CHAN LEFT ALREADY.
AH... THAT'S OKAY...
MEOW

SHE DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING TO YOU, YAMATO-KUN?
SHE SAID SHE DIDN'T HAVE TIME FOR BREAKFAST. SHE WAS GONNA GRAB SOMETHING ON THE WAY.
POOR THING. SHE HAS TO GET UP SO EARLY.
AH.
OKAY...
UH...
WHAT...?
CRUNCH
UH...DID SHE SAY ANY-THING...
...ABOUT ME?
CRUNCH
OKAY...
NO. I DON'T THINK SO.

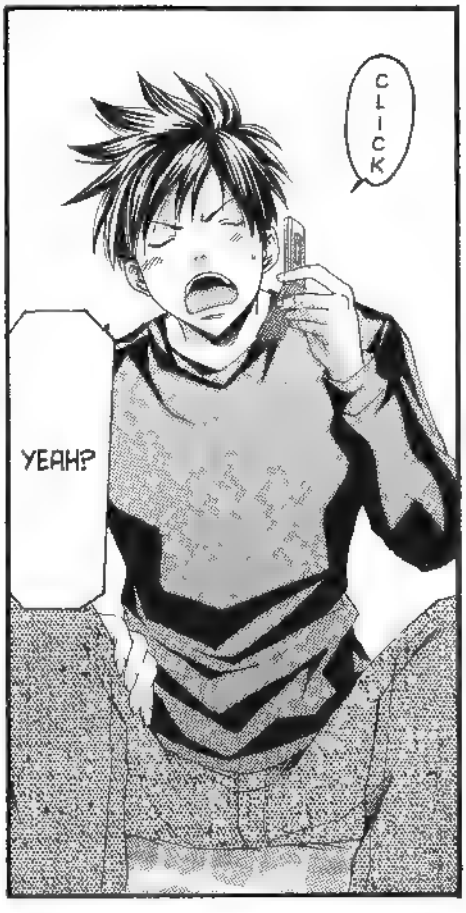
WHAT'S HER PROBLEM? SHE COULD HAVE SAID SOMETHING TO ME BEFORE SHE LEFT.
301
NHK
YAMATO AKITSUKI
SWAP
AH...!
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW MANY TIMES I CALLED YOU?
.....
FWAP
SIGH...
.....
CREAK
I SHOULD APOLOGIZE TO HER.

PAUSE
N-NO...
I KNOW IT WAS PARTLY MY FAULT...
BUT SHE'S THE ONE WHO COULDN'T MAKE OUR DINNER!!
NO WAY. IF I APOL-OGIZE NOW, IT'S LIKE I'M ADMIT-TING THAT IT'S ALL MY FAULT!!
SHE SHOULD APOLO-GIZE TO ME FIRST.
AND ONCE SHE DOES... WELL THEN, I'LL...
GLANCE

THAT'S HER!
ブルルル
BUZZ
ブルルル
BUZZ
RING RING

I HAVE TO SOUND LIKE I'M STILL KIND OF UPSET.
COUGH COUGH
AH, WAIT... I SHOULDN'T SOUND TOO HAPPY...

HUH...?
HI... THIS IS YUI...


CLICK
YEAH?

OH...I GOT IT FROM HATTORI-KUN...
Y-YUI-CHAN!? HOW DID YOU GET MY NUMBER...?

I JUST WANTED TO TELL YOU THAT I'M REALLY SORRY ABOUT YESTER-DAY.
I DIDN'T KNOW THAT YOU HAD A GIRL-FRIEND...
OH...WELL...I SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN HANGING OUT AT A DATING PARTY IN THE FIRST PLACE.
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT, YUI-CHAN.
OKAY...
SO...
UM... DID YOU TWO MAKE UP...?
AH...
YEAH... WE'RE COOL.
THAT'S GOOD! I WAS SO WORRIED ABOUT YOU.
I WOULD'VE FELT SO BAD IF YOU GUYS BROKE UP BECAUSE OF ME.
H-HA HA... DON'T WORRY WE'RE FINE...

GOOD! HEY, SINCE YOU HAD TO LEAVE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE PARTY YESTERDAY, WE SHOULD GET TOGETHER AGAIN SOMETIME.
WHAT...?
AH... YEAH... ...ALL OF US.
AH...!! SORRY, I DON'T MEAN....UH, I MEAN...ALL OF US SHOULD GET TOGETHER AGAIN, YOU KNOW!!
THE NEXT TRAIN IS BOUND FOR AWAKA-MOGAWA
SWAP
NONCHIBA STATION
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP

TIK チ
TOK チ
TIK チ
TOK チ
SHIT...
I GUESS, SHE'S REALLY NOT GONNA CALL...
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK

SUZUKA #87 The Reply

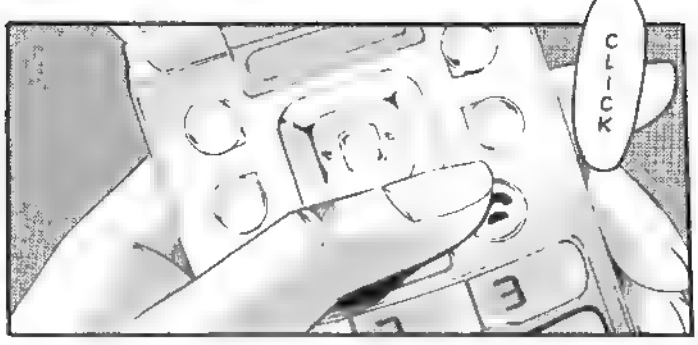
GLANCE
SIGH...
.....
BZZ...
BZZ...
RING RING
SHOCK
WHOA!!
CLICK
H-HELLO...

HELLO, YAMATO? IT'S MOM.
.....!!

AH...DID YOU EAT THE APPLES I SENT YOU? EAT THEM SOON OR THEY'LL GO BAD.
UH...I'M KINDA BUSY RIGHT NOW. I'LL CALL YOU BACK.

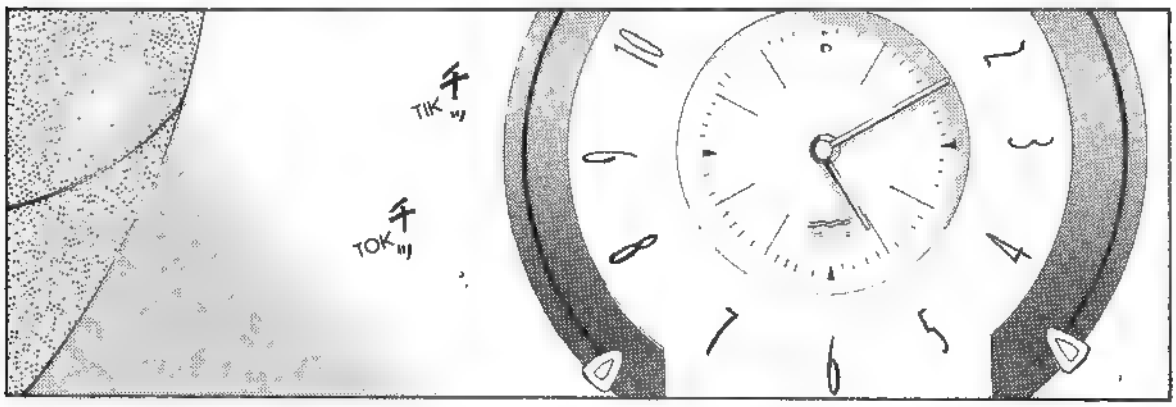
YOUR WINTER BREAK STARTED YES-TERDAY, RIGHT?
ARE YOU COMING HOME FOR NEW YEAR'S?
-I DON'T THINK SO... I WENT HOME OVER SUMMER, SO...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN? WHY DON'T YOU COME HOME? YOUR GRANDMA IS WORRIED ABOUT YOU!

OH, OKAY. I'LL LET YOU GO THEN...
OH, AND YOUR DAD WANTS TO KNOW IF YOU GAVE THAT SAKE TO YOUR FRIENDS...
UH HUH, YEAH I DID. BYE, MOM!!


CLICK

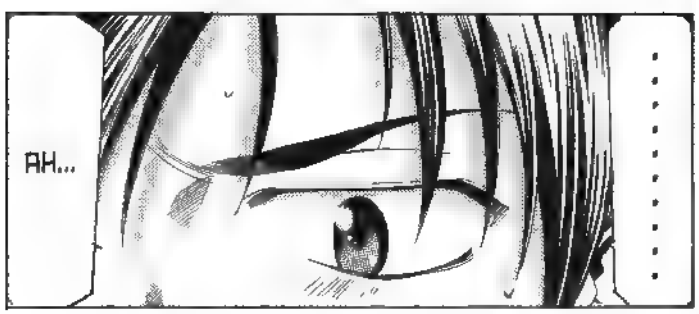
SHIT...
SHE WON'T HAVE TIME TO CALL ME...
WHEN SHE GETS TO THE CAMP...
YOU WANT ME TO CALL YOU FIRST, HUH!?
OKAY FINE!
.....
SUZUKA ASAHINA
CLICK
CLICK
FINE. I'LL APOLO-GIZE!!

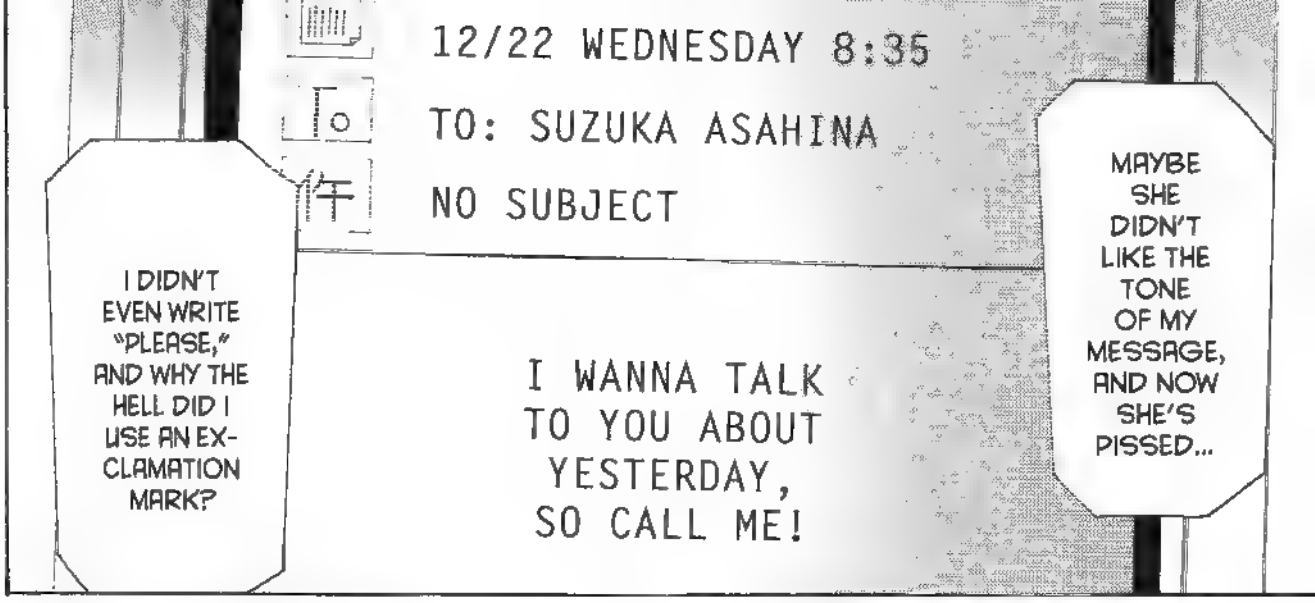
YOU HAVE REACHED THE VOICE MAILBOX OF...
WHAT!?
THUMP
THUMP
.....
BLEEP
IT DIDN'T EVEN RING.
.....
I WANNA TALK TO YOU ABOUT YESTERDAY, SO CALL ME!
WHAT THE HELL...
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
AT LEAST LET ME TALK TO YOU.
FWUP
ALL RIGHT... SEND!
GO!!
WHEN SHE CALLS... I'LL GIVE HER A PIECE OF MY MIND.

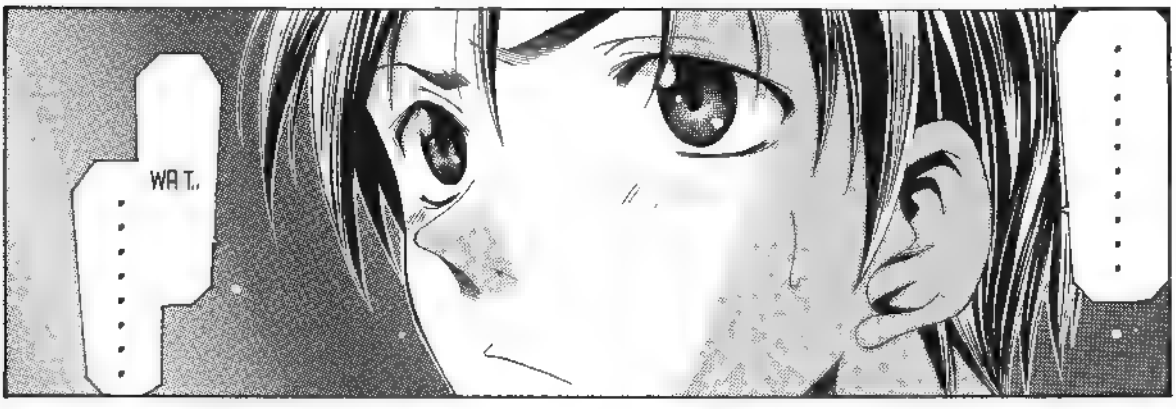

TIK
TOK

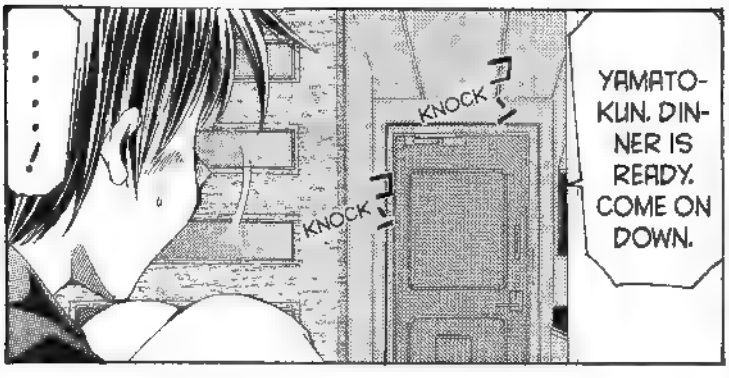
WHAT'S GOING ON? SHE STILL HASN'T CALLED AND IT'S GETTING PRETTY LATE.
SHE MUST'VE SEEN MY MESSAGE BY NOW...
PWAP

ON CHRIST-MAS EVE, COUPLES WALK HAND IN HAND...
SQUIRM
SQUIRM
ENJOYING THE GOR-GEOUS DISPLAYS OF CHRISTMAS LIGHTS...

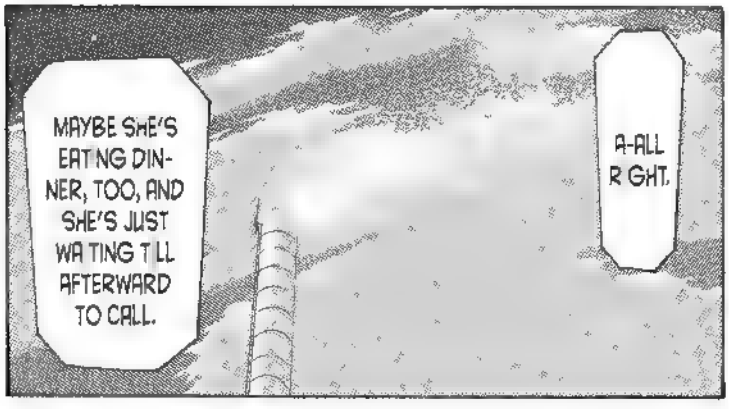

AH...
.....


12/22 WEDNESDAY 8:35
TO: SUZUKA ASAHINA
NO SUBJECT
I WANNA TALK TO YOU ABOUT YESTERDAY, SO CALL ME!
I DIDN'T EVEN WRITE "PLEASE," AND WHY THE HELL DID I USE AN EXCLAMATION MARK?
MAYBE SHE DIDN'T LIKE THE TONE OF MY MESSAGE, AND NOW SHE'S PISSED...


WA T.
.....
.....


.....!
KNOCK
KNOCK
YAMATO-KUN. DINNER IS READY. COME ON DOWN.

BUT...
S I G H...
MAYBE SHE...

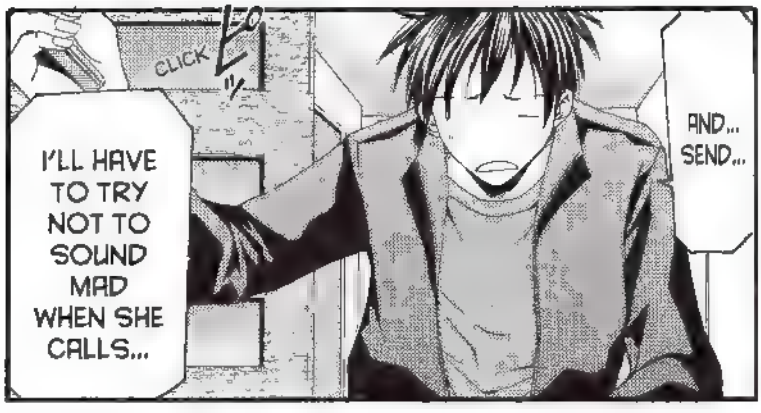

MAYBE SHE'S EATING DINNER, TOO, AND SHE'S JUST WAITING TILL AFTERWARD TO CALL.
A-ALL R GHT.

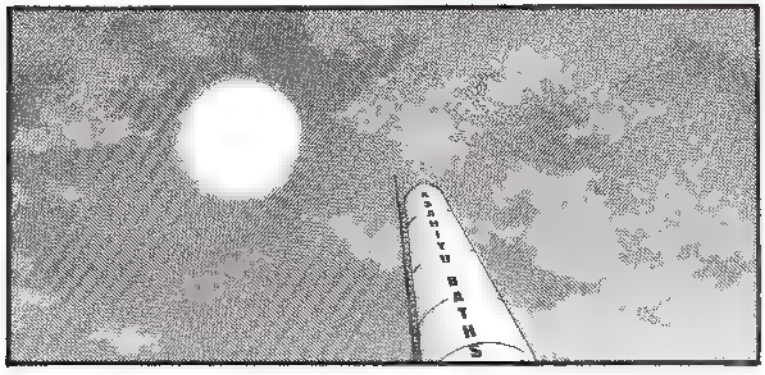
AAAHHH...
FLUP
FLUP
TIK
TOK
TIK
YEP, SHE'S DEFINTELY PISSED.
SHE'S PISSED.
MIKI HASHIBA
AH...
I KNOW!!
FWISH
NO...
BAD IDEA... I CAN'T CALL HER... SHE'LL JUST GIVE ME A STUPID LECTURE.

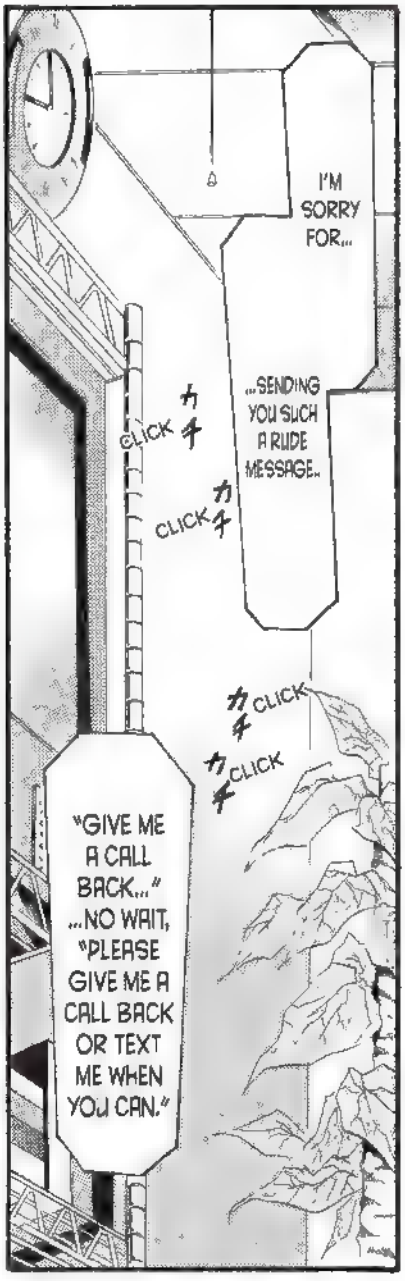
DING DONG
DING DONG
HEY, YAMATO-KUN. YOUR ESCORTS HAVE ARRIVED!
GRRR
.....
I DIDN'T ORDER AN ESCORT!! GO HOME!!
POUND
POUND
WHAT DID YOU SAY!? WHO DO YOU THINK YOU'RE TALKING TO!?
JUST OPEN THE GODDAMN DOOR!! I LEFT MY TENRYUU CD IN YOUR ROOM!
KNOCK
KNOCK
SHUT UP. LIKE I GIVE A SHIT!
OH YEAH!!
BOOM
WELL, YOU'D BETTER WATCH YOUR BACK, YAMATO!
SIGH...
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP

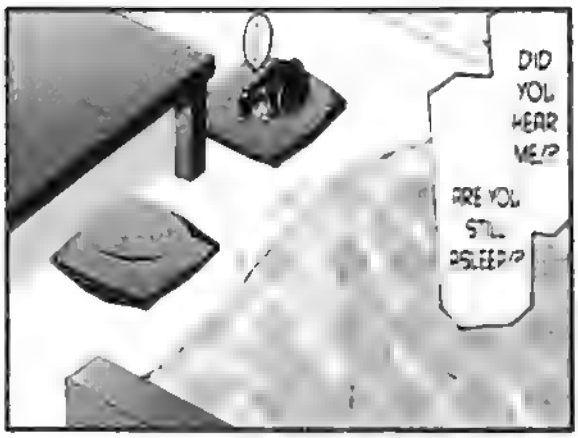
I SHOULD...
...APOLOGIZE FOR SENDING THAT TEXT...
.....

I'M SORRY FOR SENDING YOU SUCH A RUDE MESSAGE BEFORE. PLEASE GIVE ME A CALL BACK OR TEXT ME WHEN YOU CAN.
UH...
GOOD...
OKAY...

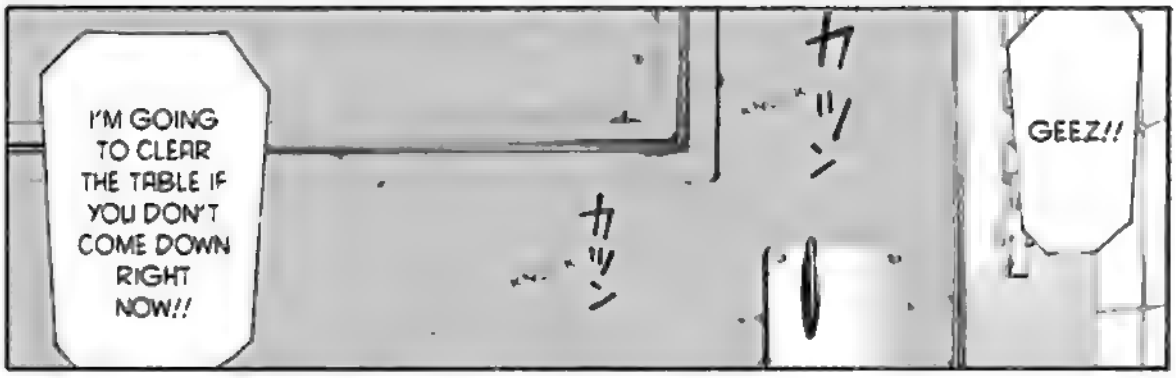

CLICK
I'LL HAVE TO TRY NOT TO SOUND MAD WHEN SHE CALLS...
AND... SEND...


SENDING MESSAGE


I'M SORRY FOR...
...SENDING YOU SUCH A RUDE MESSAGE..
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
"GIVE ME A CALL BACK..."
...NO WAIT, "PLEASE GIVE ME A CALL BACK OR TEXT ME WHEN YOU CAN."


DID YOU HEAR ME!?
ARE YOU STILL ASLEEP!?

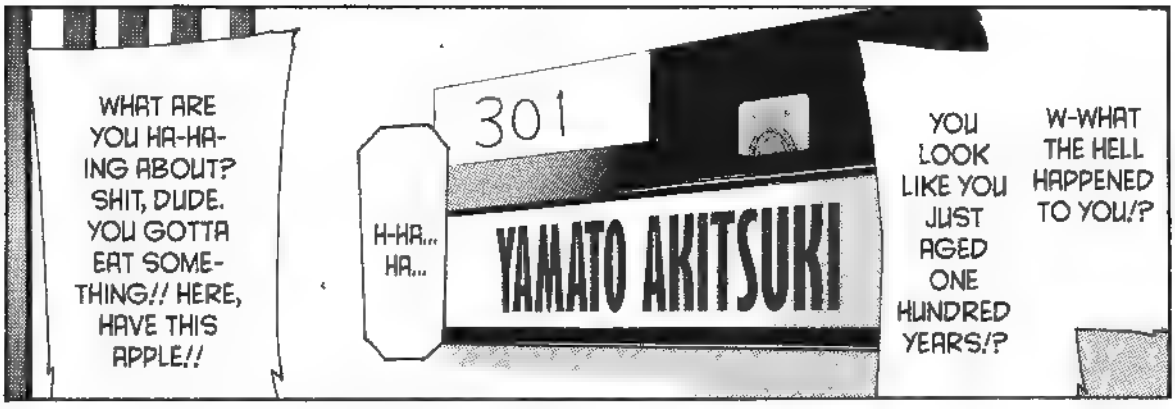
YAMATO-KUN, BREAK-FAST IS READY!


I'M GOING TO CLEAR THE TABLE IF YOU DON'T COME DOWN RIGHT NOW!!
カツン
カツン
GEEZ!!

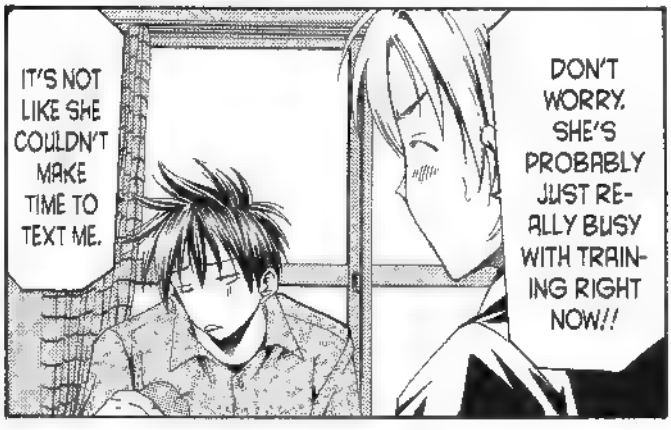
N-NOTHING...
ズ
NO CALLS...
...NOT EVEN A TEXT MESSAGE

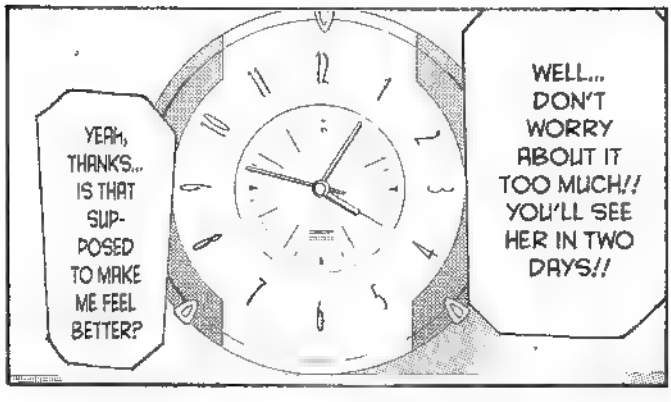
I'M SO SORRY ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED THE OTHER NIGHT! IT WAS MY FAULT, TOO. PLEASE FORGIVE ME, AND PLEASE TEXT ME BACK.
THIS IS BAD!! THIS IS REALLY BAD!
I'D BETTER APOLO-GIZE RIGHT AWAY!!
STARE
ALL RIGHT...
SCRATCH
SCRATCH
NO... I CAN'T SAY "IT WAS MY FAULT, TOO!"
PLEASE, PLEASE REPLY THIS TIME!
IT SHOULD BE "IT WAS ALL MY FAULT!!" I'VE GOTTA APOLO-GIZE ABOUT THE CAKE, TOO.

カチャ
CLICK
HOWDY!!
I'M FROM THE LOST AND FOUND DOOR TO DOOR SERVICE CENTER!! I'M HERE TO DELIVER YOUR COAT!
HEY...
.....
.....
!?

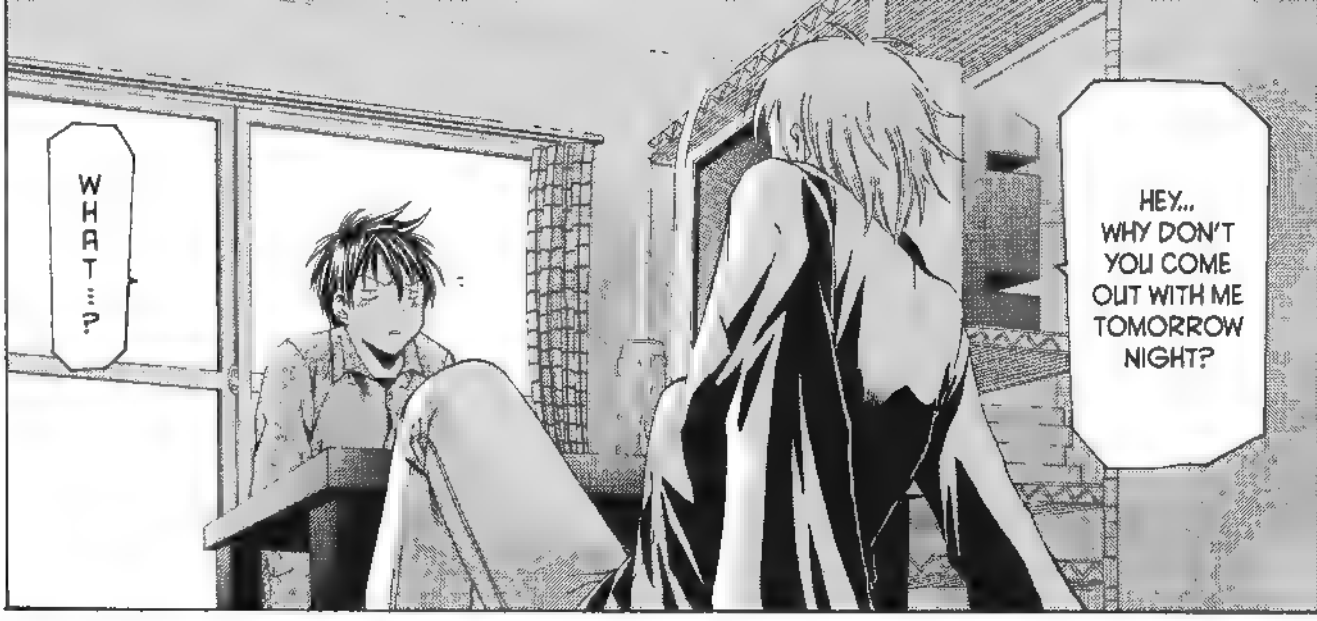

W-WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED TO YOU!?
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU JUST AGED ONE HUNDRED YEARS!?
301
YAMATO AKITSUKI
H-HA... HA...
WHAT ARE YOU HA-HA-ING ABOUT? SHIT, DUDE. YOU GOTTA EAT SOME-THING!! HERE, HAVE THIS APPLE!!

SHE'S NEVER BEEN THIS MAD BEFORE.
CHOMP
SHE MIGHT EVEN BREAK UP WITH ME.

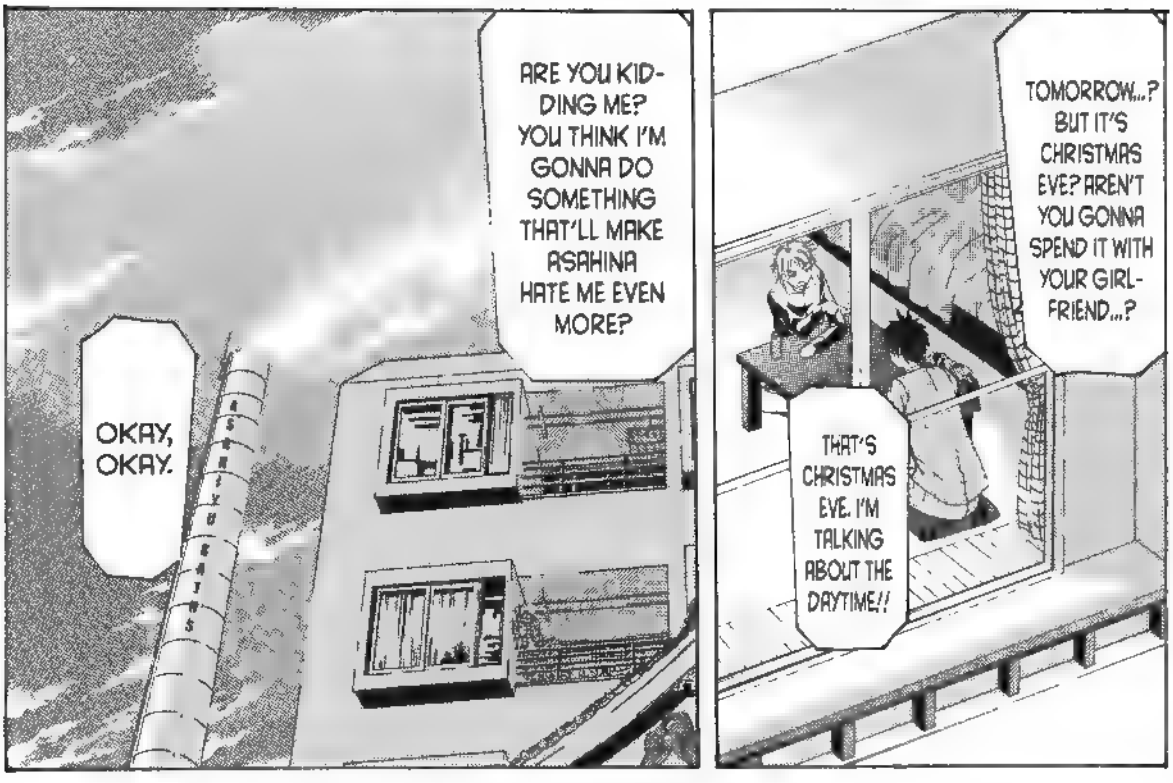

DON'T WORRY. SHE'S PROBABLY JUST RE-ALLY BUSY WITH TRAIN-ING RIGHT NOW!!
IT'S NOT LIKE SHE COULDN'T MAKE TIME TO TEXT ME.


WELL... DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT TOO MUCH!! YOU'LL SEE HER IN TWO DAYS!!
YEAH, THANKS... IS THAT SUP-POSED TO MAKE ME FEEL BETTER?

YEAH...
SO THEN YOU GUYS GOT INTO A FIGHT AND NOW SHE WON'T RETURN YOUR CALLS.
UH HUH...


WHAT...?
HEY... WHY DON'T YOU COME OUT WITH ME TOMORROW NIGHT?

SHE SAID SHE'D DO IT IF YOU AND YUI-CHAN CAME ALONG THOUGH.
I ASKED HER OUT, BUT SHE WASN'T INTO THE IDEA OF JUST ME AND HER HANGING OUT.
WELL... REMEMBER THAT CHICK WITH THE BLEACHED HAIR FROM THE OTHER NIGHT?


ARE YOU KIDDING ME? YOU THINK I'M GONNA DO SOMETHING THAT'LL MAKE ASAHINA HATE ME EVEN MORE?
OKAY, OKAY.
TOMORROW...? BUT IT'S CHRISTMAS EVE? AREN'T YOU GONNA SPEND IT WITH YOUR GIRLFRIEND...?
THAT'S CHRISTMAS EVE. I'M TALKING ABOUT THE DAYTIME!!

THAT'S A PRETTY PATHETIC WAY TO SPEND CHRISTMAS EVE. WHAT IF SHE STILL DOESN'T CALL OR TEXT YOU BACK. YOU'LL GET EVEN MORE DEPRESSED.
SO YOU'RE JUST GONNA SIT AROUND ALL DAY WAITING FOR THE PHONE TO RING?
SHUDDER
YOU'RE NOT HERE. I'M ALL ALONE ON CHRIST-MAS EVE.
WHAT IF SHE CALLS WHEN I'M WITH YOU GUYS...
S-SHUT UP
COME ON, GO OUT WITH US AND HAVE SOME FUN FOR A CHANGE.
WHAT DO YOU SAY!?
SUZUKA-CHAN WON'T GET MAD IF YOU'RE JUST HANGING OUT WITH FRIENDS!!
SHE WON'T CALL!! NOPE. NO WAY. SHE WON'T.
..-LOOK..
ALL RIGHT, THEN IT'S SETTLED!! MEET ME IN FRONT OF THE STATION TOMORROW AT 8 A.M.!! MAKE SURE YOU GO TO BED EARLY TONIGHT!

CONTINUED IN VOLUME 11

HEY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING FOR VALENTINE'S DAY?
I'M NOT GIVING ANYBODY ANYTHING.
WHAT ABOUT YOU, MIHO-CHAN?
AH... ME...?
SHOCK
FEBRUARY 12
I'M GOING TO MAKE HOMEMADE CHOCOLATES FOR YAMATO-KUN!
IT HAPPENED JUST BEFORE YAMATO MOVED TO TOKYO.
HE WAS IN HIROSHIMA, AND LITTLE DID HE KNOW THAT...
SPACING OUT
YAMATO AKITSUKI (9TH GRADE)
SHIT. WHO THE HELL IS THIS YAMATO GUY!!
... HUNDREDS OF MILES AWAY, A YOUNG BOY WAS CURSING HIS VERY NAME!
TSUYOSHI KUSAKABE (7TH GRADE)- HAS A CRUSH ON MIHO-CHAN

MIHO

SUZUKA

SPECIAL BONUS MANGA

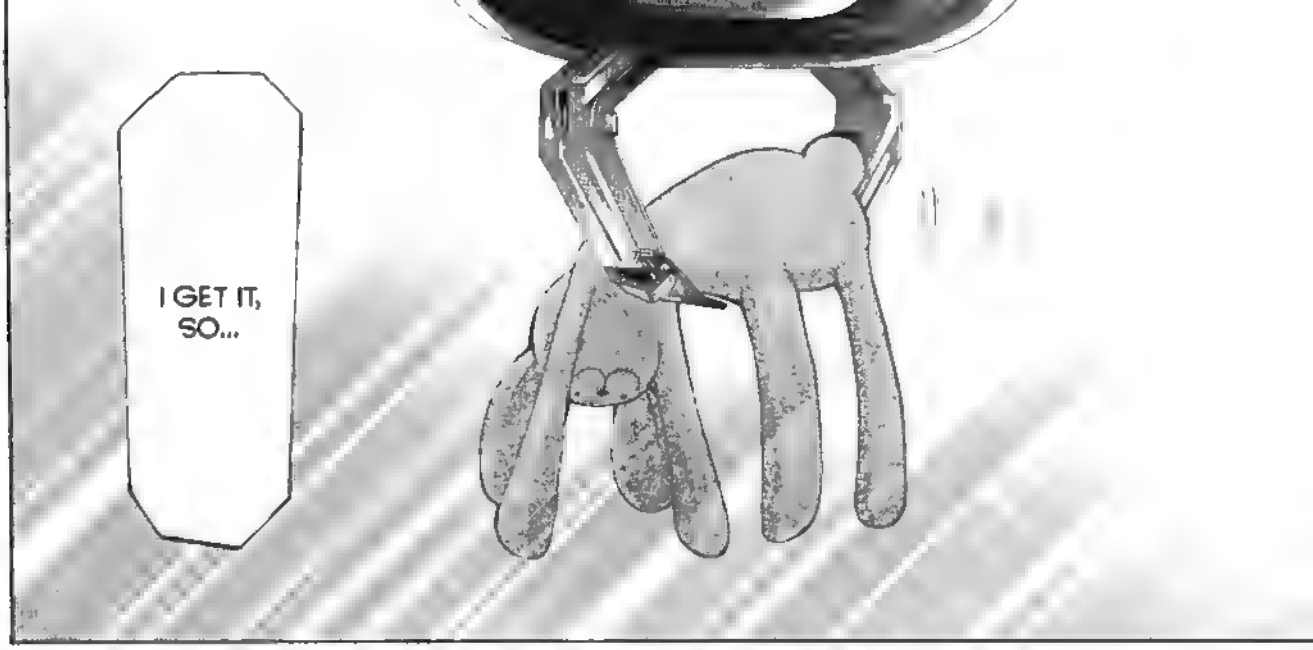
WHAT...?
YOU WANT ME TO TEACH YOU HOW TO GET CHICKS IN TWO DAYS!?
YASUNOBU HATTORI (9TH GRADE)

PLEASE!!
YES, SIR!!

I CAN'T LET THAT GUY GET IN MY WAY!!
SHUT UP, KID. JUST LEAVE ME ALONE...

DON'T BE STUPID. THAT'S TOTALLY IMPOS-SIBLE.
W-WAIT!! PLEASE, TEACH ME HOW TO BE LIKE YOU, HATTORI-SENPAI, PLEASE!!

YAM-ATO...?
THAT STUPID YAMATO!


I GET IT, SO...

HEY, COULD YOU KEEP IT DOWN, SENPAI!!?
THE LOVE OF YOUR LIFE, MIHO-CHAN FROM ASA-HIYU BATHS, WANTS TO GIVE VALENTINE'S CHOCOLATE TO YAMATO, HUH?

I WAS SUPER POPULAR WITH THE LAD ES WHEN I WAS A KID AND IT WAS ALL THANKS TO HIM.
WHEN WE USED TO HANG AT THE BATH HOUSE.
KNOW HIM? HE'S MY BEST FRIEND.

PLUP
WELL, YAMATO IS GONNA BE TOUGH TO BEAT...
MIHO-CHAN HAS ALWAYS LIKED YAMATO.
WHAT...? YOU MEAN YOU KNOW YAMATO!!?

S-SO, HATTORI SENPAI OWES HIS POPULARITY TO THIS GUY!!?
WHOA!! N-NO WAY!

YAMATO MUST BE SUPER HOT!
I-IF THAT'S TRUE...
TSUYOSHI-KUN'S IMAGE OF YAMATO

CHICKS LIKE...
...SWEET AND SENSITIVE GUYS.

SHIT!... THERE'S NO WAY I STAND A CHANCE AGAINST HIM...
SLUMP
I WOULDN'T SAY THAT
I WANT A BEAR LIKE HE HAS.
NO!

WOW, THANKS!!
OH, THANK YOU SO MUCH
HERE YOU GO. YOU CAN HAVE MINE.
HUH...?

OUT SHOPPING WITH YOUR SISTER?
キッチンサービス
OH, NO! I'M HER MOTHER.
NO WAY!! YOU LOOK WAY TOO YOUNG TO BE HER MOTHER!!
R-REALLY? TEE HEE

HE'S AMAZING...
キャッ KYA
キャッ KYA

SO THIS YAMATO GUY...
...MUST BE EVEN SMOOTHER.

SWEET AND...
...SENSITIVE...

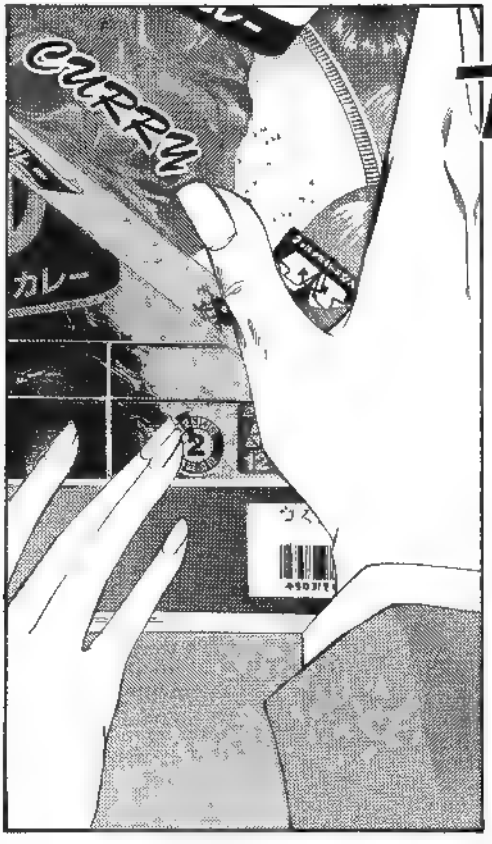
YOU'RE THE MOST SENSITIVE GUY I KNOW.
YOU'RE SO SWEET, YAMATO-KUN.
TSUYOSHI-KUN'S IMAGE OF YAMATO

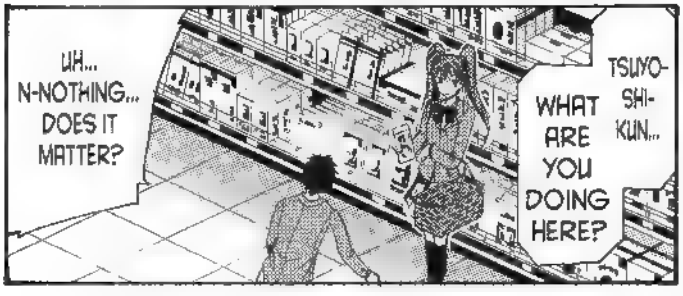
AH... THERE SHE IS.

YOINK キョロ
YOINK キョロ
FUJIKAWA ALWAYS BUYS HER FOOD HERE.

ﾌﾟﾙ SHAKE
ﾌﾟﾙ SHAKE
UH... CAN'T QUITE REACH IT...

HERE YOU GO.
YOU SHOULD BE MORE CAREFUL. YOU'RE AN ACCIDENT WAITING TO HAPPEN.


CURRY
カレー

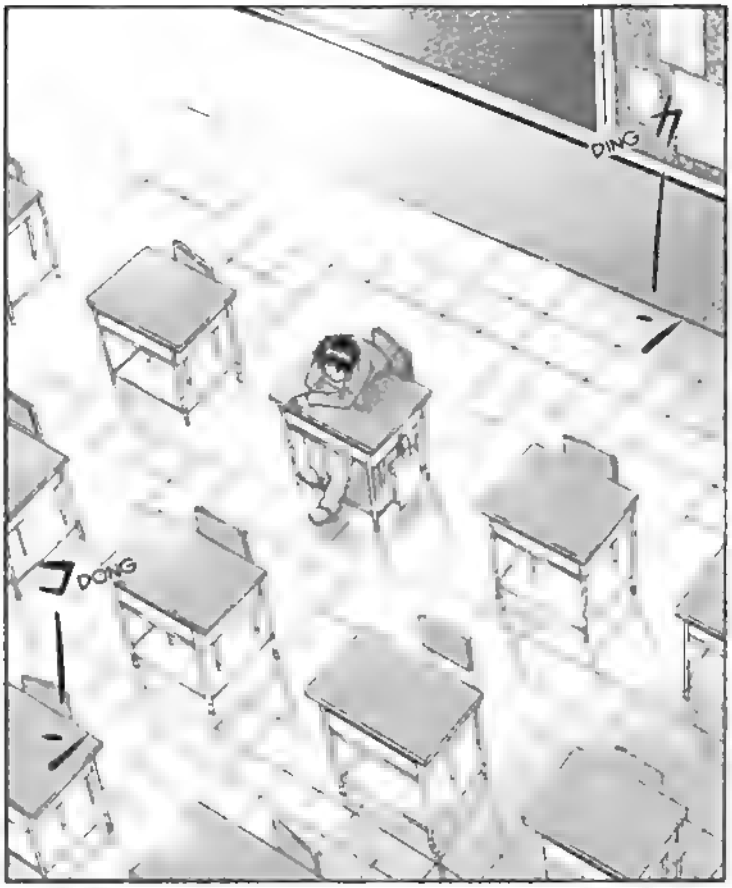

TSUYO-SHI-KUN... WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
UH... N-NOTHING... DOES IT MATTER?

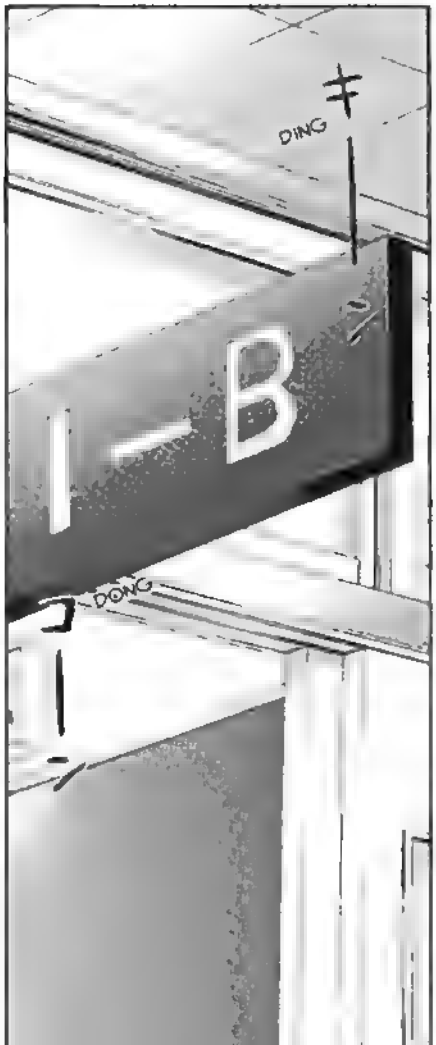
BUT YOU ARE A LITTLE KID.
D-DON'T TALK TO ME LIKE I'M A LITTLE KID!!
YOU'D BETTER HURRY ON HOME OR YOUR MOM'LL BE WOR-R ED.
LET GO!!
C'MON, JUST GIVE IT TO ME!!
YANK
I SAID, GIVE IT TO ME!!
FWICK
GIVE ME THAT!! I'LL CARRY IT FOR YOU!!
QU-QUIT IT. I CAN CARRY IT MYSELF!

GET AWAY FROM ME!!
YOU STUPID JERK!!
WHAT THE HECK IS WRONG WITH YOU?
AHHH!!
CRASH
KYAA
WHY CAN'T I BE LIKE HATTORI-SENPAI...?
THUD
WHY...
NO WAY, ARE YOU SERI-OUS?
GIVE ME SOME OF YOUR MEAT...
LISTEN UP, TSUYOSHI...
.....

I'LL BE SMOOTH!!
OKAY, MASTER!!
YOU CAN'T TRY TO FORCE SWEETNESS ON A CHICK.
YOU GOTTA BE SMOOTH, MAN..
WHAT...?
SCHLOP
ARE YOU TRY-ING TO MAKE ME FAT OR SOME-THING!!?
WHAT? THERE'S NO WAY I CAN EAT ALL THIS!?
WHAT!?
SPECIAL SERVICE!

W-WHAT...
.....
WHAT A PRICK.
EVER SINCE YESTERDAY TSUYOSH-KUN S BEING A *OTR JERK TO ME!
WHAT'S WRONG, MIHO-CHAN?
I'LL NEVER BEAT YAMATO LIKE THIS...!!
THE MORE I TRY, THE MORE SHE HATES ME!!


DING
DONG


DING
I-B
DONG

I PROBABLY WON'T GET A DAMN THING...
TOMORROW'S VALENTINE'S DAY.
...SHE'D GET ME SOMETHING...
I WAS HOPING...
SHE FORGOT HER BAG
...HUH?

HIROSHIMA PREFECTURE, YAMATO... AKITSUKI.
.....
THERE'S SOME-THING IN HERE.
AH...
Y-YAMATO!?
THIS MUST BE THE CHOCO-LATE SHE'S SENDING HIM!!
I'M GOING TO MAKE HOMEMADE CHOCOLATES FOR YAMATO-KUN!
A,
ITSUKI
OUGHTA JUST THROW THIS AWAY...
SH T...I SHOULDN'T HAVE LOOKED.

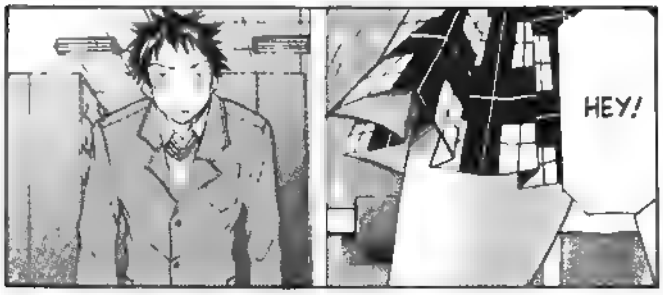
YAMATO AKITSU
AH...
BUT VALENTINE'S IS TOMORROW. IF SHE DOESN'T SEND IT TODAY, IT WON'T GET THERE ON TIME...
HMMPH...
BUT THAT'S NOT MY PROBLEM...
HE PROBABLY GETS MOUNTAINS OF CHOCOLATE FROM OTHER GIRLS ANYWAY.
WHOOSH
SLIDE
PANT
PANT
THERE IT IS...

IT'S GONE!!
WHAT THE-?
EVEN IF I SEND IT NOW, IT'LL NEVER GET THERE BY TOMORROW
WHAT'S THIS...?
.....?
DON'T WORRY
DON'T WORRY, I SENT IT FOR YOU!!
I SENT IT FOR YOU...?

FEBRUARY 14TH
DING
DONG
CLOPPA
CLOPPA
YO, TSUYOSHI!
GRIN
GRIN
WHY THE LONG FACE?
DID YOU GET ANY CHOCOLATE?
FROM ALL OF US AT THE HATTORI-SENPAI FAN CLUB
NO... NOT A SINGLE PIECE...
I'M NO YAMATO AKITSUKI.
AH... HEY.

YOU LOOK KIND OF LIKE YAMATO, SO DON'T WORRY, YOU'LL BE FINE..
LIGHTEN UP

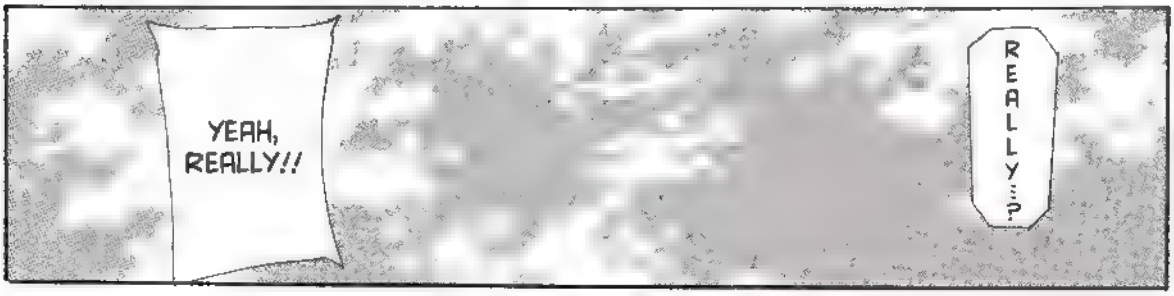
I KNOW I LOOK NOTHING LIKE HIM!!
WHATEVER, DON'T BOTHER TRYING TO CHEER ME UP.

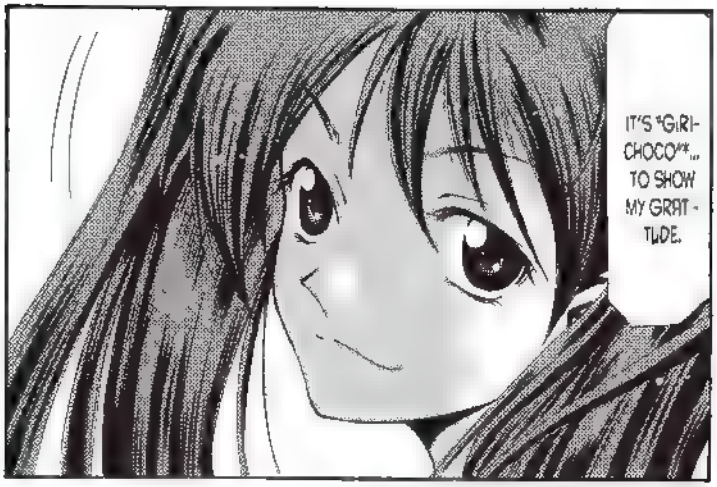

HEY!

NO MATTER HOW HARD I TRY...
I'LL NEVER GET ANY CHOCOLATE FROM HER!!

DID YOU WRITE THIS?
DON'T WORRY, I SENT IT FOR YOU!!

*$10





*OBLIGATORY CHOCOLATE

THUMP
ドキ
ドキ
THUMP
ドキ
ドキ
.....
SEE YA.
FWOOSH
IT'S JUST GIRI CHOCOLATE, BUT ST'LL, T'S FROM HER!
N-NO WAY!
WOO HOO!!
WAAAHHHH
I GOT CHOCOLATE!!

I DON'T CARE IF YOU DO GET MOUNTAINS OF CHOCOLATE FROM OTHER GIRLS, BECAUSE...
YOU JUST WATCH, YAMATO AKITSUKI!
NEXT YEAR...
I'M GONNA GET REAL VALENTINE'S CHOCOLATE FROM MIKO FUJIKAWA!

THE END

HATTORI-KUN THE NINJA

ENTER HATTORI-KUN!

KABUTO COMICS

KOJI G. SEO

MIYAMOTO
YEAH RIGHT, HATTORI-KUN. YOU KNOW I'M BUSY STUDY-ING FOR ENTRANCE EXAMS.
I DON'T WANNA BE A JERK, BUT COULD YOU PLEASE LEAVE.
HEY, SOICHI. I'M BORED.
LET'S GO PICK UP GIRLS.
ALL WORK AND NO PLAY MAKES JACK A DULL BOY.
LET'S GO OUT AND PLAY! LET'S GO OUT AND PLAY!
HE'S SO ANNOY-ING...
MATH

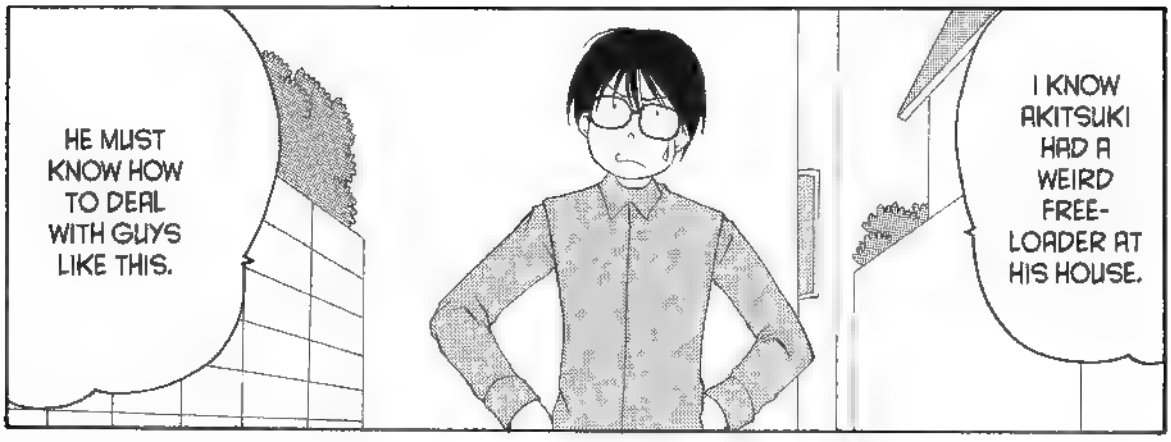
EVEN IF I LOCK THE DOOR, YOU JUST BREAK INTO MY ROOM.
EVER HEARD OF BREAK-ING AND ENTERING?
WHAT'S YOUR DEAL ANYWAY?
YOU JUST SHOW UP AT MY HOUSE ONE DAY AND MOVE RIGHT IN.

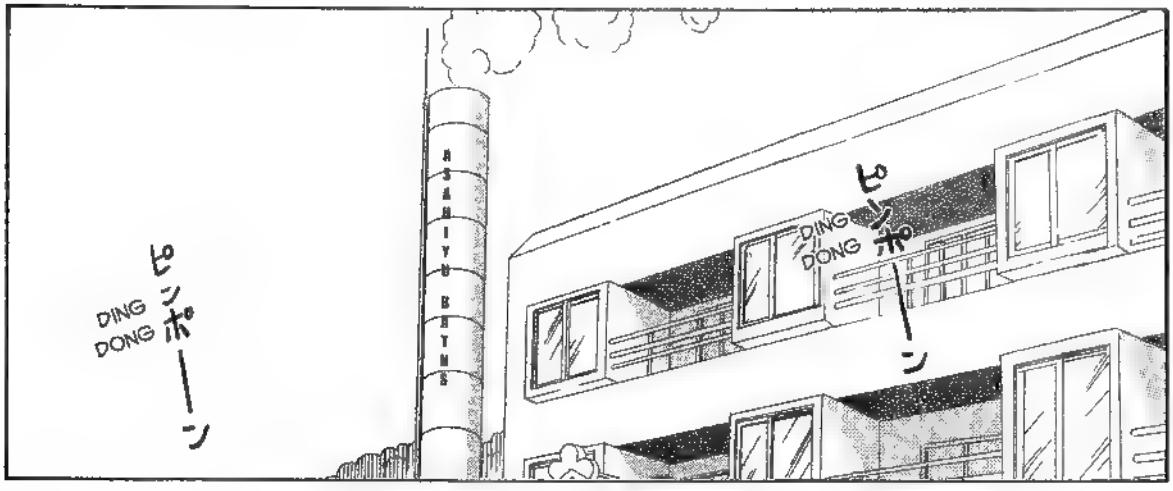
WELL, ALL YOU DO IS BUG ME....
PLUP
したっ
OH, SHUT UP. I'M JUST A NINJA WHO CAME HERE TO HELP OUT LOSERS LIKE YOU.

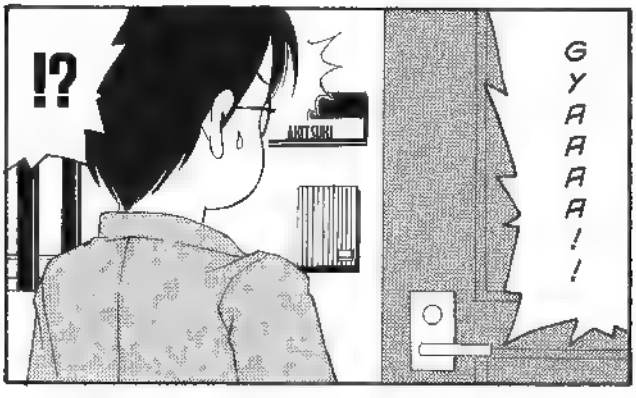
I SAID SHUT UP!
FWICK
チャキ
YOU WANT ME TO SLICE YOU INTO A THOUSAND PIECES?
NOW WE'RE TALKING ASSAULT WITH A DEADLY WEAPON!

WHERE DO YOU GO TO SCHOOL, ANYWAY?
YOUR PARENTS MUST BE WORRIED SICK ABOUT YOU...
YOU SKIP SCHOOL EVERY DAY AND BREAK INTO PEOPLE'S HOUSES...

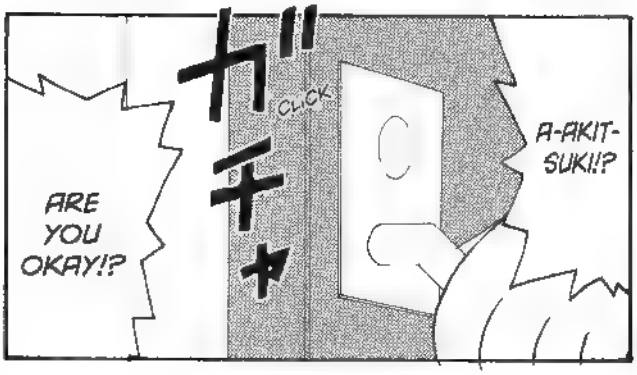
NOT INTER-ESTED.
SWAP
HEY, I KNOW! HOW 'BOUT IF SHOW YOU MY SECRET NINJA TECH-NIQUE FOR ATTRACTING LADIES.
THERE'LL BE A TON OF CHICKS HERE IN NO TIME.
NO, NO. IT'S JUST A FIGURE OF SPEECH. IT'S BAS.CALLY A WAY OF WINNING BATTLES THROUGH SKILLED VERBAL DEBATE...
WHY THE HELL WOULD I WANNA KILL A THOUSAND PEOPLE?
WELL... I COULD TEACH YOU MY "1000 MEN WITH ONE STRIKE" TECHNIQUE.
H-HEY, WHERE ARE YOU GOING, SOICHI?
CLICK
JUST SHUT THE HELL UP ALREADY!! I CAN'T CON-CENTRATE!!
SWOP
MATH


I KNOW AKITSUKI HAD A WEIRD FREE-LOADER AT HIS HOUSE.
HE MUST KNOW HOW TO DEAL WITH GUYS LIKE THIS.

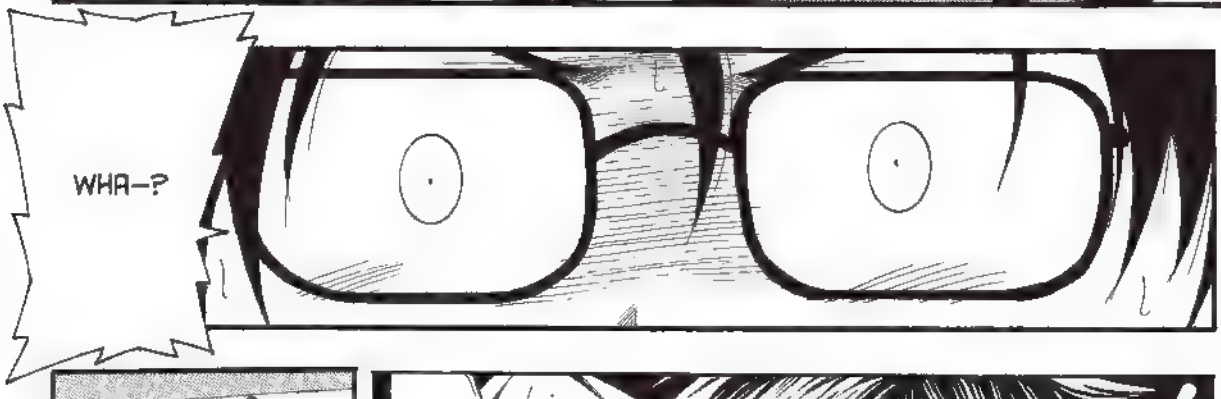

ピンポーン
DING DONG
ピンポーン
DING DONG
ASAHIYU BLDG.

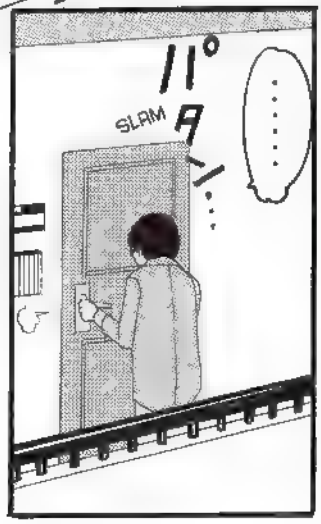

!?
AKITSUKI
GYAAAA!!

.....
HMM... GUESS HE'S NOT HOME...

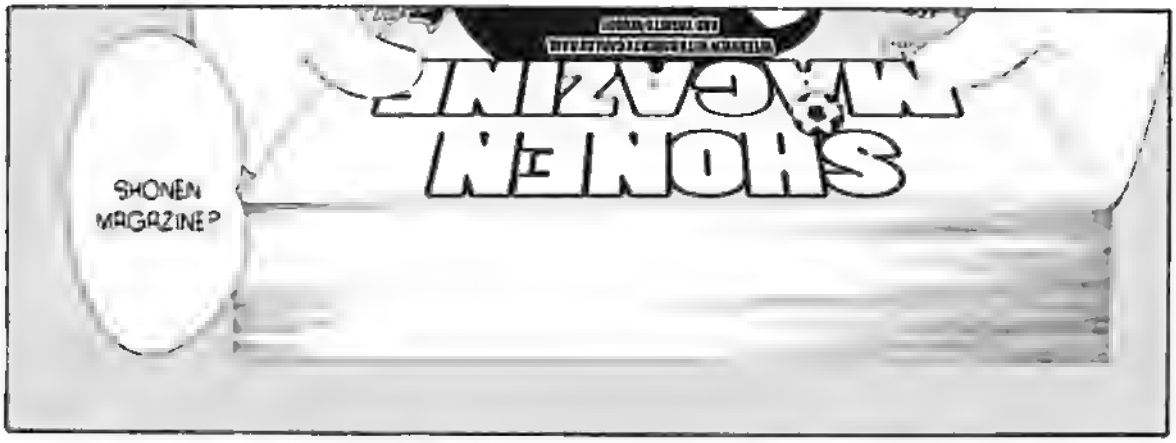

ガチャ
CLICK
A-AKIT-SUKI!?
ARE YOU OKAY!?

H-HELP ME!!
MEK-MEK
BWA HA HA HA
HEH HE HEH HEH
SOICHI'S PERSPECTIVE


WHA—?


SLAM
……

あああ!
AAAHH!
SOICHI'S PERSPECTIVE



YEAH, YOU HAVEN'T READ THIS WEEK'S EDITION YET, HAVE YOU, HATTORI KUN?
"HAJIME NO IPPO" IS GETTING REALLY GOOD!!
UH... WHAT'S WITH YOU?
YOU'RE CREEPIN' ME OUT

THE GRASS ISN'T ALWAYS GREENER ON THE OTHER SIDE IS THIS THE BIRTH OF NEW HERO?!?!

☆ THE END OF CHAPTER 1 ☆

E-EXCUSE ME, ARE YOU OKAY?
AND ONE MORE THING. MEN WHO DON'T TAKE CHRISTMAS AND ANNIVERSARIES SERIOUSLY ARE TOTAL ASSHOLES.
CLUNK
ASS-HOLES!!

Christmas Eve in Japan, page 56

In Japan, where less than 1 percent of the population identifies as Christian, Christmas is not celebrated as a religious holiday. Instead, Christmas Eve is somewhat similar to Valentine's Day in the United States. It's usually associated with couples and romance. To many young people, it's very important to have a date for Christmas Eve.

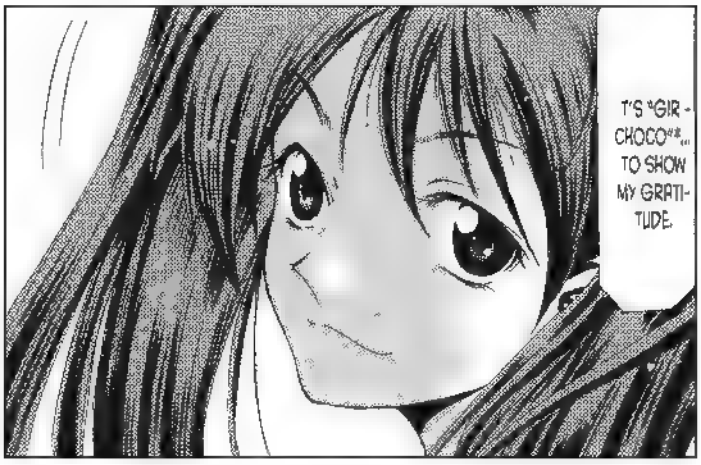
Christmas cake, *page 96*

Although most Americans have never heard of it, having a Christmas cake for the holiday is a British tradition that is also popular in Japan.

OH, YEAH.... WE..L... EVERY-WHERE'S SO CROWDED ON CHRIST-MAS EVE. IT'S JUST TOO MUCH, YOU KNOW...
SO I WAS THINKING, WE SHOULD JUST HANG OUT AT YOUR APARTMENT, AYA-CHAN. I MEAN, SINCE YOU'VE GOT YOUR OWN PLACE AND EVERYTHING... I CAN BRING YOU A CHRISTMAS CAKE.

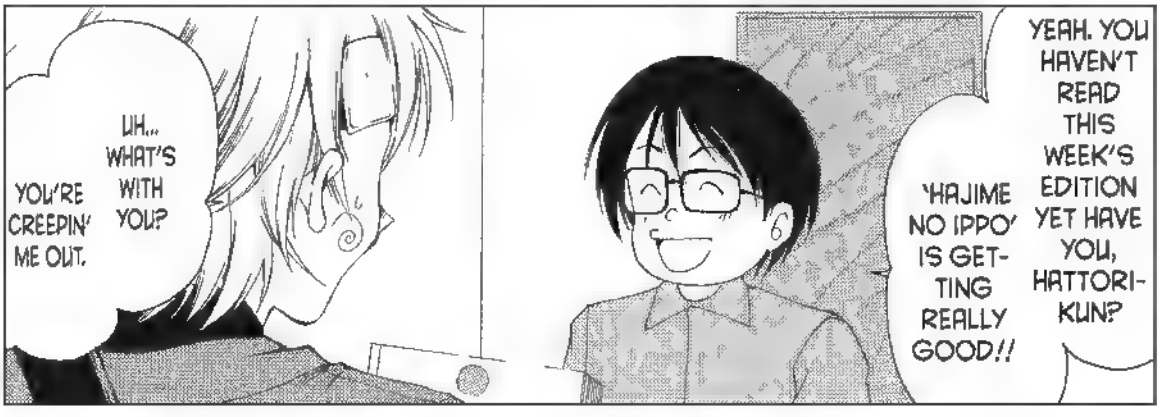
SanFreece Hiroshima, page 123

SanFreece Hiroshima is a soccer team that is part of Japan's "J-League."



Giri, page 182

"Giri choco" literally means something like "obligatory chocolate" or "duty chocolate." "Giri choco" is used to describe the chocolate that girls give to guys on Valentine's day out of obligation. For example, if a woman gave chocolate to every man in her office, so that no one felt left out, she might refer to it as "giri choco." However, if a girl gave chocolate to her boyfriend, or a guy she was in love with, that would be considered a "real" Valentine's gift.


UH... WHAT'S WITH YOU?
YOU'RE CREEPIN' ME OUT.
YEAH. YOU HAVEN'T READ THIS WEEK'S EDITION YET HAVE YOU, HATTORI-KUN?
'HAJIME NO IPPO' IS GET-TING REALLY GOOD!!

Hajime no Ippo, page 191

Hajime no ippo is a popular boxing manga that appears in *Kodansha's Weekly Shonen Magazine*.

Preview of Volume 11

We're pleased to present you with a preview of *Suzuka,* volume 11. Please check our website (www.delreymanga.com) to see when this volume will be available in English. For now you'll have to make do with Japanese!

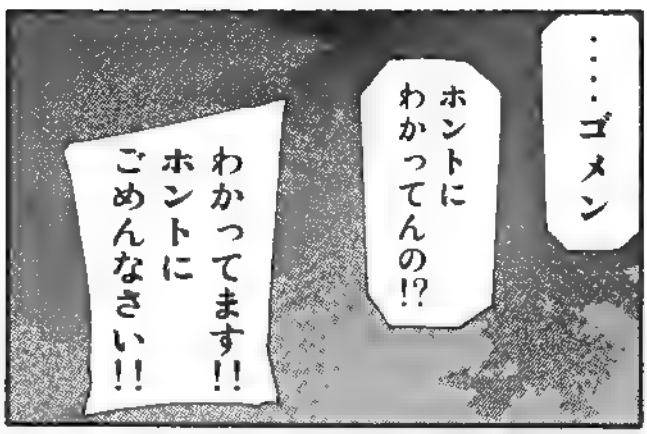
え……
え――!?

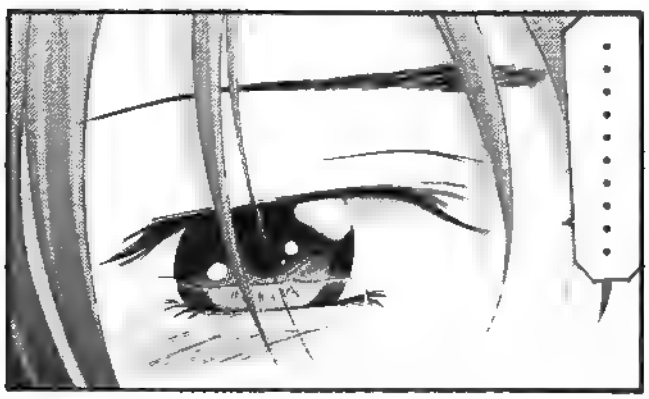
あの……
え――!?
え――!?

気を抜いてるほうが痛いでしょ?
大和くん殴られ慣れてるから
これくらいしないと効かないもんね

だからって……
スゲ――アメとムチ来た……

せっかく許してあげようと思ってたのに遊園地行ったなんて…
ちょっとくらい寂しくても我慢しなさいよ!!


……ゴメン
ホントにわかってんの!?
わかってます!! ホントにごめんなさい!!


……

……じゃあ 許して
あげるわよ……
もう
泣かせないでね…？
……うん
……ゴメン
知らな
かった……
朝比奈がこんなに
想ってくれてた
なんて……
……あ
そうだ
ついでだから……
え……
まだ何か……
ドキッ!!

Gacha Gacha
THE NEXT REVOLUTION

HIROYUKI TAMAKOSHI

JUST ONE OF THE GIRLS

A whole new Gacha Gacha story line begins! Akira Hatsushiba is just your typical, average high school kid . . . until a glitch in a Gacha Gacha video game changes his life forever. Now, every time Akira sneezes, his entire body undergoes a gender-bending switcheroo! That's right, Akira is always just an *achoo* away from getting in touch with his feminine side. But it's not all bad. Akira has had a crush on Yurika Sakuraba ever since he first laid eyes on her. He's always been too shy, but now that he can change into a girl, Akira finally has a chance to get close to Yurika. Being a girl certainly has its advantages!

Special extras in each volume! Read them all!

VISIT WWW.DELREYMANGA.COM TO:
- Read sample pages
- View release date calendars for upcoming volumes
- Sign up for Del Rey's free manga e-newsletter
- Find out the latest about new Del Rey Manga series

RATING M AGES 18+

DEL REY DEL REY MANGA デルレイ
The Otaku's Choice

Gacha Gacha: The Next Revolution © 2004 Hiroyuki Tamakoshi / KODANSHA LTD. All rights reserved.

The Yagyu Ninja Scrolls

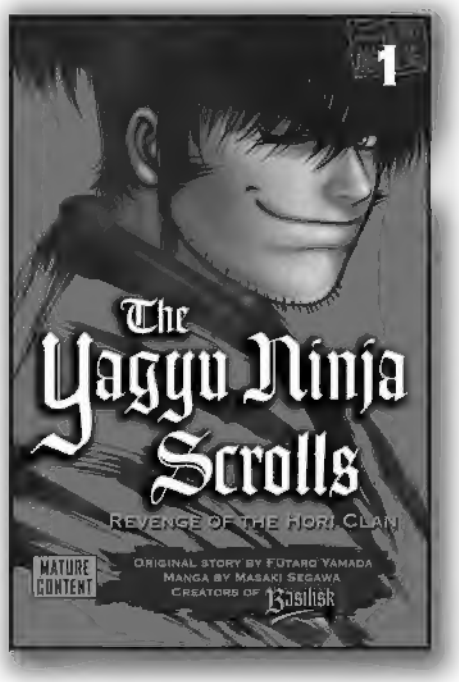
REVENGE OF THE HORI CLAN

ORIGINAL STORY BY FŪTARO YAMADA
MANGA BY MASAKI SEGAWA

VOW OF VENGEANCE!

Seventeenth-century Japan: A rebellion in the Aizu territory has been brutally crushed, leaving twenty-one brave warriors dead and most of the nuns of the local convent slaughtered. Now the surviving nuns have sworn to seek revenge.

- **From the creators of *Basilisk***



Special extras in each volume! Read them all!

VISIT WWW.DELREYMANGA.COM TO:
- Read sample pages
- View release date calendars for upcoming volumes
- Sign up for Del Rey's free manga e-newsletter
- Find out the latest about new Del Rey Manga series

RATING M AGES 18+

DEL REY DEL REY MANGA デルレイ
The Otaku's Choice™

The Yagyu Ninja Scrolls: Revenge of the Hori Clan © 2005 Fūtaro Yamada and Masaki Segawa / KODANSHA LTD. All rights reserved.

You are going the wrong way!

Manga is a completely different
type of reading experience.

To start at the *beginning,* go to the *end*!

That's right! Authentic manga is read the traditional Japanese way—from right to left, exactly the *opposite* of how American books are read. It's easy to follow: Just go to the other end of the book, and read each page—and each panel—from right side to left side, starting at the top right. Now you're experiencing manga as it was meant to be.